

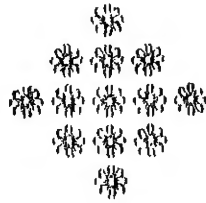
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN  
1706-1790

An idealized interpretation of the portrait by F. B. O. G. S.  
Reproduced from an engraving by A. Kneller, in the collection of the British Museum.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN  
PRINTER.

BY  
*JOHN GLYDE OSWALD.*

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*Published by*  
Doubleday, Page & Company  
*for*  
The Associated Advertising Clubs  
of the World.  
1917.



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*To  
Edgar Fahs Smith  
Provost of the University of  
Pennsylvania  
Educator, Chemist, Publicist,  
Creative Leader of American Thought  
this book is dedicated  
in grateful appreciation of  
his cordial and abundant hospitality  
to the delegates to the  
Twelfth Annual Convention of the  
Associated Advertising Clubs  
of the World.*







*To the Judicious and Impartial*

# R E A D E R.

*Courteous Reader,*

None of my day dreams contained the hope that business cares might some day relax sufficiently to permit devoting the time necessary to a careful performance of what I felt would be an agreeable task, the writing of a book on the life of that many-sided man, Benjamin Franklin, dealing primarily with his activities as a printer, using the word in the sense which it possessed in his time, when it included printing, editing, publishing, and advertising.

Many years ago I began to collect on a modest scale what is known as Frankliniana—books relating to Franklin's history, editions of his writings, specimens of the product of his press, reproductions of his portraits, etc., and as the collection grew my wonder increased that although Benjamin Franklin himself placed so much emphasis upon that part of his activities which related to printing, among all the published books about him and his

accomplishments there was not one devoted to phase of his career.

Reference to this fact was made at the banquet in honor of the anniversary of the birth of the Poor Richard Club in Philadelphia January 17, 1916, in an address by Mr. H. S. Houston, president of the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World. Mr. Houston said the year 1916, because of the holding of the twenty annual convention of the Associated Advertising Clubs in Philadelphia, with the buildings, grounds of the University of Pennsylvania, which Benjamin Franklin founded, as the scene of sessions, would be a particularly appropriate time for the publication of such a book, and he did the honor to nominate me for its authorship.

Other tasks were in hand that prevented immediate adoption of the suggestion, so that the work could not be promptly begun, and consequently it has therefore had to be performed somewhat hurriedly in order to keep the promise as to date of publication, a statement I make because of a regretful appreciation of the fact that it could have been much better done.

As to the physical structure of the volume, it has been the aim to make it conform typographically somewhat nearly to the style of the book printed by Benjamin Franklin. He had no ideas as to bookmaking, as will be seen in the qu

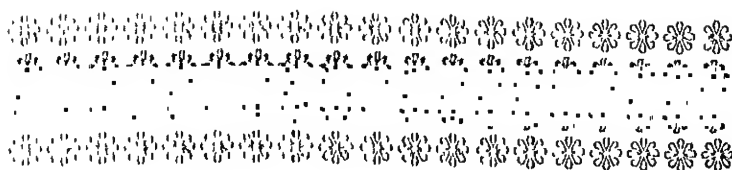
*To the READER.* ix

tations from his writings, and we have endeavored to produce a book that would meet with his approval could he have opportunity to pass judgment upon it.

Grateful acknowledgment for invaluable service in connection with the preparation of the book is made to Messrs. Henry L. Bullen, of Newark, N. J., Walter Gilliss and Edmund G. Gress of New York, and Dr. William J. Campbell and Harrie A. Bell of Philadelphia.

*The Author.*





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# BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PRINTER.

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## CHAP. I.

### *The Colonies at the Beginning of the Eighteenth Century and the First American Printers.*

\*\*\*T the beginning of the Eighteenth Century,  
\* A \* ten Colonies stretched up and down the  
\*\*\* Atlantic Coast in North America, which,  
although they had been settled by representatives  
of different European nations, all acknowledged the  
sovereignty of Queen Anne of England, who,  
lately come to the throne, was soon to leave it to  
give place to that long line of German Georges  
that was to play so considerable a part in the  
affairs of the New World. England claimed  
greater dominion in North America than the  
narrow fringe of settlements along the Coast,  
but was actually in possession westward, only to a

line roughly marked by the Allegheny Mountains; farther to the west was New France, and to the south and southwest was New Spain.

Among the colonists, in addition to the English, were Scotch, Irish, Welsh, French, Dutch, Germans, Swedes, Danes, and Spaniards. The wealthiest of the English settlers lived in the south, particularly in Virginia, where had settled the Royalists, or Cavaliers, driven from England by the successes in the civil wars of Oliver Cromwell and his Roundheads. Contrasted with these aristocrats were the Georgians, brought over a few years after the opening of the century from English debtor prisons by Oglethorpe, and the Puritans of New England, with their austere religious tenets and disregard of opportunities to lay up stores of this world's goods. In Virginia one must hold property in order to exercise the citizen's right to vote; in New England he must be a member of the Church.

Most of the denominations and creeds in religion were represented. In Virginia to be saved from eternal damnation meant conformity to the rules of the established church, while the Puritan in New England, having fled from what he regarded as persecution by that same ecclesiastical institution, placed his reliance principally upon the teachings of the Bible; and the Quaker largely disregarded both and believed that one could find

a solution of his spiritual problems only in the dictates of his own heart.

On the bleak shores of New England the difficulties arising from repellent natural conditions inculcated in the people habits of industry and frugality. In the south, where nature was more generous in the distribution of her favors, large plantations were operated by wealthy owners, and luxury and indolence were in evidence.

The population one hundred years after the landing of the first shipload of colonists on an island in the James River, in 1607, is not known. No census was ever taken, and the estimates vary between one half million and one million souls.

There were three large towns—Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, naming them in the order of their size. Even their population cannot definitely be given. Cotton Mather, who would seem to be a credible witness on most subjects, said, of the population of Boston, two years before the opening of the century, that it was "more than eighteen thousand." Herman Moll, publisher of an "Atlas Geographus," who ought also to be a good witness, said in 1719: "Boston is reckon'd the biggest Town in America, except some which belong to the Spaniards. . . . Its inhabitants are reckon'd about 12,000." Captain Nathaniel Uring, in his "Voyages and Travels," published in 1726, said: "The Town is near

#### 4      *The First American Printers.*

two miles in length and in some places three-quarters of a mile broad, in which are reckon'd 4,000 houses; most of them are built with brick and have about 18,000 inhabitants."

In 1700 New York contained less than six thousand population, of whom nearly one half were negroes. Some aristocratic families are said to have owned as many as fifty slaves. New York, although having been under English rule for nearly half a century, was still a Dutch town and most of the sights and sounds were Dutch: gable-end houses, streets that were little more than narrow, crooked lanes, cobblestone sidewalks, but withal "clean, compact, tidy."

Philadelphia was chartered as a city by William Penn in 1701, at which time it had seven hundred buildings and forty-five hundred inhabitants, having almost doubled in population since Penn's journey across the seas to his Colony nine years before. It was first settled by the Swedes, who were joined by the Quakers sent over by Penn and still later by Germans at Penn's invitation, thus becoming the first really cosmopolitan city on the newly settled continent. William Penn said in regard to it: "I wanted to afford an Asylum for the good and the best of every Nation. I aimed to frame a Government that might be an example. I desired to show Men as free and happy as they could be."

Transportation between the Colonies was restricted principally to the sea. There were trails across country that could be followed by foot or on horseback, but none of any length or connecting important points. The traveler from Boston to New York must go by sailing vessel out around Cape Cod and southwest through Long Island Sound, taking two to four days for the voyage, depending upon wind and weather. It was practically as long a voyage by water from New York down the New Jersey coast and up the Delaware Bay to Philadelphia.

The century was well along toward middle age before covered wagons began to run regularly once a week between New York and Philadelphia, traveling at the rate of about three miles an hour. Later a coach, advertised as "The Flying Machine" because it made the journey in good weather in two days, was put on. In bad weather the journey was not only longer, but less comfortable, for the reason that frequently passengers were called upon to alight and help to pry the wheels out of the mud.

#### THE FIRST AMERICAN PRINTERS.

Several printers had come and gone in the American Colonies before Benjamin Franklin first saw the light of day early in the year 1706. First of them all was Stephen Daye. He had been en-

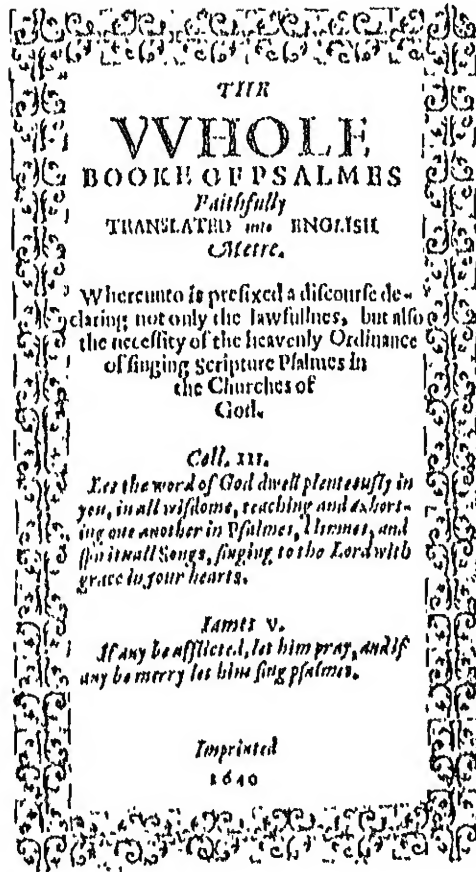


## 6      *The First American Printers.*

gaged by the Rev. Jesse Glover, "a worthy and wealthy dissenting clergyman" to come to America with a printing equipment which the Rev. Mr. Glover had purchased in England and which he was bringing over to further the aims of the colonists from the points of view of Church and State.

Unfortunately, Mr. Glover died during the voyage. His widow engaged Stephen Daye to set up the equipment and to take charge of it, the item in the records of Harvard College being to the effect that "Mr. Jos. Glover gave to the College a font of Printing Letters, and some gentlemen of Amsterdam gave towards furnishing of a Printing Press with letters forty-nine pounds and something more."

Daye conducted the printing plant at Harvard for about ten years, being succeeded for a short period by his son Matthew, who spelled his surname "Day." Stephen Daye remained in Cambridge and some years later brought suit against Henry Dunster, the first president of Harvard College, who had married the Widow Glover and thereby come into control of the printing office, for the recovery of five hundred dollars which sum Daye said was owing to him as an unpaid balance for his former services. Daye presented a petition to the General Court for a grant of three hundred acres of land as "Recompence of his Care



Title page of the first book published in English America.  
Printed by Stephen Daye, at Cambridge, Mass., 1640.  
Original Size 31" x 6".

and Charge of furthering the work of Printing," which was accepted.

Matthew Day was the second colonial printer, but he died before he was thirty years of age, and only one known work bears his imprint.

Samuel Green was the third colonial printer and he continued to follow the craft until 1693, his death, at eighty-seven years, occurring ten years later. In 1656 there were two presses in Cambridge operated by Green, one belonging to Harvard College, which was probably that purchased in England by the Rev. Mr. Glover, and the other the property of the corporation, the second one having been brought over for the purpose of promoting the education of the Indians.

Green was the first to print the Bible in the Indian language. Isaiah Thomas, in his "History of Printing in America," says of this Bible: "It was a work of so much consequence as to arrest the attention of the nobility and gentry of England, as well as that of King Charles, to whom it was dedicated. The press of Harvard College, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was, for a time, as celebrated as the presses of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, in England."

Green, too, received a grant of three hundred acres of land. He was a man of character and his high standing in the community is attested by the circumstance that for thirty years he held a com-

mission in the Cambridge Militia Company as captain. Robert F. Roden, in his history of "The Cambridge Press," says of him: "Although not the first printer at our first press, his name, and not that of Stephen Daye, is the most glorious name in its history."

Of quite another calibre was Marmeduke Johnson, an English journeyman printer, who crossed to America in 1660 to assist in printing Eliot's Indian Bible the greatest achievement of the Cambridge Press; Johnson thus becoming fourth in the ranks of American printers. He seems to have been a capable workman but was continually in debt and occasionally in conflict with the authorities. In 1663 the Commissioners wrote from Boston to the corporation in England in regard to Johnson, "If there bee occasion further to Employ him It were much better to contract with him heer to print by the sheete than by allowing his standing wages," and further, "concerning Marmeduke Johnson the printer whose Dememeanor hath not beene fuitable to what hee promised wee shall leave him to your selves to dismisse him as soone as his yeare is expir'd if you see think fit."

The above were the first printers in Massachusetts and in the Colonies, and all of them, as will be noted, were located in Cambridge. The first Boston printers were John Foster, Samuel Sewall, James Green, Samuel Green, Jr., Richard

Pierce, Benjamin Harris, and Bartholomew Green, the first five of whom were successively connected with one printshop and had passed away or had retired from business before Benjamin Franklin was born. There may have been an exception in the person of an educated Indian known as James the Printer, whose name, however, does not appear in a position of responsibility until the year 1709, when a Psalter in both the Indian and English languages was published with the joint imprints of "Stephen Green and James Printer."

Of these Boston printers, one, Benjamin Harris, whose printing house was "over against the old meeting house in Cornhill," deserves special mention. He is sometimes spoken of as the father of American journalism, because in 1690, four years before he returned permanently to London, he issued a "news-letter" entitled "Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick," which he proposed to furnish once a month or oftener, if required. It contained four pages, one of them being blank, for correspondence. Only one copy of it is known to be in existence, having been discovered during a search in the State Paper Office in London by the historian of Salem, Mass.

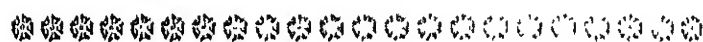
Bartholomew Green went over the river from his father's establishment in Cambridge to Boston in 1690, and set up "the best printing apparatus then in the country," but a complete loss by fire put him

out of business a few months after he started. He returned to Cambridge for two years and was employed by his father. In 1692 we find him again engaged in printing in Boston, where he continued to conduct an establishment for forty years. In it was produced the first American newspaper, the "Boston News-Letter," a weekly; No. 1 being dated April 24, 1704, and printed for John Campbell, postmaster.

One other printer was to be found within the territory of the English Colonies during the closing days of the Seventeenth Century, and he was destined to have a good deal to do with the affairs of Benjamin Franklin. He was William Bradford, a Quaker, and the son of a printer, one among the first immigrants to the new settlement on the Delaware River, where he arrived in 1682. He returned to London, where he married the daughter of Andrew Sowle, a printer, and came again to Philadelphia in 1685, bearing a letter from George Fox, the Quaker, introducing him as a sober young man who was on his way to Philadelphia to set up the trade of printing Friends' books. His first known work is dated 1686, and because of inadvertent and apparently harmless reference to the government authorities he got into difficulty with them. This difficulty continued until 1693, when having received an invitation from the Governor of New York to remove to that province and

## 12     *Franklin as a Printer's Devil.*

a guarantee of two hundred dollars a year and the public printing, Bradford removed to New York and became the first printer of that province, continuing to be the only printer in it for thirty years. He established the "New York Gazette" in 1725, thus becoming New York's first newspaper publisher. He is said, although without authority, to have been of noble birth, and he always sealed with a crest showing his coat of arms.



## CHAPTER II

### *Young Franklin as a Printer's Devil.*

JOSIAH FRANKLIN, dissenter and dyer, removed from Banbury in Oxfordshire, England, to Boston in New England, with his wife and three children in 1685. After the birth of four more children his wife died, and later he married Abiah Folger and by this marriage had ten children, a total of seventeen, of whom ten were sons and seven were daughters. Benjamin was the tenth and youngest son and the fifteenth child.

Although Pope Gregory XIII promulgated the reform of the Julian calendar in 1582, and it was in that year adopted by all Roman Catholic countries, Great Britain and her colonies delayed until 1752 before doing likewise. Therefore, in the old public Register of Births, still preserved in the

Mayor's office in Boston, it is recorded that Benjamin Franklin, son of Josiah and Abiah Franklin,

*Benjamin son of Josiah & Abiah Franklin born Janry 1706  
by the birth of Josiah & Abiah Franklin born Janry 1706*

Record of the birth of Benjamin Franklin in the Register of Births in the Mayor's office in Boston.

was born January 6, 1706. With the adoption of the reformed calendar came an advance of eleven days, and accordingly the day of the birth, as we now have it, is January 17.

The location of the birthplace is usually given as Milk Street, opposite South Meeting House, where the records of the Town of Boston show Josiah Franklin was granted liberty to build a house eight feet square on land belonging to Lieut. Nathaniel Reynolds. Josiah Franklin later occupied a house "at the sign of the Blue Ball," corner of Hanover and Union streets. Jared Sparks, whose edition of Franklin's works was published in 1840, satisfied himself that the removal did not occur until after Benjamin's birth. Subsequent investigation by Samuel G. Drake, whose authoritative "History and Antiquities of the City of Boston" was published in 1854, seems to establish the fact that Benjamin was born in the larger house.

The day of the birth was a Sunday, and the pious father took the baby boy from his humble cottage to the South Meeting House, and he was there baptized under the name of his paternal



#### 14 *Franklin as a Printer's Devil.*

uncle Benjamin, at that time living in England, and who became later the only member of the numerous Franklin family to join Josiah in the New World.

Benjamin being the tenth son was considered to be something in the nature of a tithe, and this fact and his very evident fondness for reading, indicating a tendency toward a literary pursuit, caused his father to decide that the boy should become a minister of the church. Accordingly, in order to give him an education, at the age of eight years he was placed in the Boston grammar school and in less than a year rose to the head of his class. Proving to be deficient in mathematics, he was next sent to a teacher noted for ability to instruct in writing and arithmetic, but although Benjamin remained a year, he made but little progress. Josiah Franklin, finding that the income from his business as a maker of candles and soap, which he had adopted because there was small demand for his services as a dyer, was hardly sufficient to meet the needs of his family and keep the younger children at school, withdrew his son from the school—the two years mentioned being Benjamin's sole experience in educational institutions.

The ministry project being abandoned, Josiah took the boy into his own establishment, intending to teach him the soap- and candle-making trade, and he continued there until he was twelve years of age. The work proved to be distasteful and

Franklin as a Printer's Devil. 13  
fearing that Benjamin would follow his oldest brother's example and run away to sea, the father wisely decided to find a more agreeable trade for him.

Accordingly, father and son together visited the workshops of the town, and finally it was decided that he should take up the trade of cutlery, his cousin Samuel, son of the elder Benjamin, being established in Boston in that line. Benjamin was employed there for a short time only, his departure resulting from the inability of his father and his cousin to agree upon the price to be paid for his instruction at the trade, it being the custom of the time for a master not only to receive the services of an apprentice free, but to be paid for the tuition, the sum for such a trade as cutlery being about one hundred dollars.

At about this time Benjamin's older brother James, a printer, had but recently returned from England with a printing outfit, and it was proposed to Benjamin that he adopt the trade of printing. The early Boston printers enumerated in the previous chapter had removed or died and at the time there were but two other printing establishments in the town, one conducted by Thomas Fleet in Pudding Lane and the other by Samuel Kneeland in Prison Lane. James Franklin had established himself on the corner that later became Franklin Avenue and Court Street.

## 16 *Franklin as a Printer's Devil.*

Although printing dealt with books, of which the youthful Benjamin was so much enamoured, he was not inclined to look with favor upon the project connecting him for life with that trade. However, the persuasion of his father prevailed and he was apprenticed to his brother James for nine years. The terms of apprenticeship at printing were easier upon the father than those imposed by cutlers, the sum to be paid to James Franklin being only about fifty dollars.

A clause of the form of apprenticeship used at the time is as follows:

"During which term the said Apprentice his Master faithfully shall or will serve, his secrets keep, his lawful commands everywhere gladly do. He shall do no damage to his said Master nor see it to be done of others; but to his power shall let, or forthwith give notice to his said Master of same. The Goods of his said Master he shall not waste, nor the same without license of him to any give or lend. Hurt to his said Master he shall not do, cause, nor procure to be done. He shall neither buy nor sell without his Master's license. Taverns, inns, or ale-houses he shall not haunt. At cards, dice, tables, or any other unlawful game he shall not play. Matrimony he shall not contract; nor from the service of his said Master day or night absent himself; but in all things as an honest and faithful apprentice shall and will demean and behave himself towards his said Master and all his during said term."

bligations of the master were as follows:

the said James Franklin, the Master, for consideration of the sum of ten pounds of British money to him in hand paid by the said Franklin, the father, the receipt of which he hereby acknowledged, the said apprentice out of a printer which he now useth, shall and instruct or cause to be taught and instructed in the best way and manner that he can, find, allowing unto the said apprentice meat, washing, lodging, and all other necessaries for the said term."

as also to pay journeyman's wages during the said year. The apparel of apprentices provided by the master is thus described by Johnson in his "Annals of Philadelphia":

pair of deerskin breeches, coming hardly to his knees, which, before they could be allowed to come into the presence of ladies, at meetings of the Sabbath, were regularly blacked up on Friday Saturday night in order to give them a neat and fresh appearance for the Sunday; a pair of woolen yarn stockings, a thick and substantial pair of shoes well greased and ornamented with brass buckles, a present from his father for his good behavior, a speckled shirt all week and a white one on Sunday, which was carefully taken off as soon as he returned from meeting, folded up and laid by for the next week. The leather breeches after several years' use were greasy, as they grew old, and were only

flexible so long as they were cool and kept warm by the superflux of youthful heat."

The terms of the apprenticeship agreement between James Franklin and his brother were adhered to with one modification. Benjamin was a constant reader and although able to borrow many books he possessed a desire for some of his own. In order to secure funds with which to make purchases, he proposed at the age of sixteen, having been four years in the employ of his brother, a change in their arrangement. The brother being unmarried did not keep house, but boarded himself and his apprentices in another family. Benjamin proposed to accept in cash one half of the sum paid by his brother for his board, and the proposition being accepted he provided his own meals, and out of the sum received from his brother was able to save one half. In this way he found funds that enabled him to accumulate a small library of his own. Says Paul Leicester Ford, in "The Many Sided Franklin:"

"It is to be questioned, if the first years of the apprenticeship were of any particular value to Benjamin save on their mechanic side, for the product of James Franklin's press is a dreary lot of gone-nothingness. A few of the New England sermons of the day: Scollard's 'Treatise on Conversion'; Stone's, 'Short Catechism'; 'A Prefatory Letter about Plagiody,' in

CATALOGUE  
OF  
Curious and Valuable  
BOOKS,

Consisting of

<i>Divinity.</i>	<i>Poetry.</i>
<i>Philosophy.</i>	<i>Plays.</i>
<i>History.</i>	<i>Travels and</i>
<i>Mathematicks.</i>	<i>Travels.</i>

Generally well Bound.

To be Sold by AUCTION,

At the Crown Coffee House in King Street Boston,  
on Monday the Twenty Sixth Day of this Instant  
October, 1719. Beginning every Evening at half  
an Hour after Four a Clock, until all be sold.

The Books will be shewn by Samuel Gerrish Book-  
seller, near the Old Meeting-House, where Cata-  
logues may be had gratis, also at Mr. Henchman's,  
and at the Place of S A L E.

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Printed by J. FRANKLIN. 1719

defense of church singing, which many Puritans still held to be unholy; an allegory styled 'The Isle of Man,' or, 'Legal Proceedings in Manshire Against Sin'; Care's 'English Liberties'; sundry pamphlets on the local politics of the moment, such as 'A Letter from One in the Country to His Friend in Boston,' 'News from the Moon,' 'A Friendly Check from a Kind Relation to the Chief Cannoneer,' and 'A Word of Comfort to a Melancholy Country'; two or three tractates on inoculation, and one aimed half at the Boston clergy and half at the fair sex, entitled 'Hooped Petticoats Arraigned by the Light of Nature and the Law of God,' were the chief output of the new printer during the years his brother served him."

After James Franklin had been established as a printer for about two years, he secured an order to produce a newspaper, the "Boston Gazette," established by William Brooker, the successor as postmaster of John Campbell, publisher, as has already been noted, of the "Boston News Letter," the first real American newspaper. William Brooker was soon succeeded as postmaster by William Musgrave, who took the printing of the "Boston Gazette" from James Franklin and gave it to Samuel Kneeland, whereupon James Franklin established a new newspaper, the "New England Courant."

It was the first newspaper not connected with a postoffice to be published in America. Number 1 of the "Courant" appeared Monday, August

17, 1721, printed on a half sheet of crown size printing paper, the type used being small pica with, occasionally, long primer. About two years later pica was adopted and used continuously.

James Franklin established the paper against the protests of his father and many of his friends, who pointed out to him that there were already three papers in the Colonies, two of them in Boston, and that another one there could not be made to succeed. The youthful publisher, however, turned a deaf ear to their remonstrances. He proposed to issue a different newspaper from any then in existence. He formed a number of his friends, among them several young doctors, into a club, the members of which were to furnish at least one original essay each week. The paper was hostile to the clergy, attacked some of the religious opinions of the day and opposed new fads, one of them which especially came in for severe but mistaken censure being the newly advanced theory of inoculation for the smallpox. The "Courant" soon drew the fire of the heaviest guns. Its older competitor, the "News-Letter," said of it:

"On Monday last the 7th Currant, came forth a Third Newspaper in this Town, Entitled, The New England Courant, by *Homo non unius Negotii*; Or, Jack of all Trades, [the motto of Franklin's address to the public] and it would seem, Good at none; giving some very, very frothy fullsome Ac-







24 *Franklin as a Printer's Devil.*

count of himself, but lest the continuance of that stile should offend his readers; wherein with submission, (I speak for the Publisher of this Intelligence, whose endeavours has always been to give no offence, not meddling with things out of his Province) The said Jack promises in pretence of Friendship to the other News-Publishers, to amend like soure Ale in Summer, Reflecting too, too much that my performances are now and then, very very Dull, misrepresenting my candid endeavours (according to the Talent of my Capacity and Education; not soaring above my Sphere) in giving a true and genuine account of all Matters of Fact, both Foreign and Domestick, as comes any way well Attested, for these Seventeen Years & an half past."

Castigation was to come upon the "Courant" from a yet more important source. The ponderous Rev. Increase Mather wheeled into line and the character of his thunderings is indicated by this extract from a contribution published in the "News-Letter":

"Advice to the Publick from Dr. Increase Mather. Whereas a wicked Libel called the New England Courant, has represented me as one among the Supporters of it; I do hereby declare, that altho' I had paid for two or three of them, I then, (before the last Courant was published) sent him word I was extremely offended with it: In special, because in one of his Vile Courants he insinuates, that if the Ministers of God approve of a

ing it is a Sign it is of the Devil; which is a horrid  
ing to be related."

These thrusts could be borne; indeed, it is easy to  
agine that such fulminations may have awak-  
ed feelings of unholy glee in the breasts of the  
ung men who were doing what they could to  
voke them, particularly as tradition still ex-  
ts to the effect that the indignant Dr. Mather,  
iving discontinued his subscription, secretly  
nt his grandson to buy copies of the "Cour-  
nt."

Soon, however, the venturesome feet of James  
ranklin and his associates strayed much farther  
the risky paths of criticism. It was a dangerous  
ing to trifle with governmental authority and  
e who attempted it was sure to come to grief.  
he government had its eye upon the "Courant"  
id only awaited opportunity to pounce upon  
with heavy hand. Soon the opportunity  
me.

Pirates were known to infest the New England  
aters and there was a feeling that the government  
as not as efficient in doing away with them and  
eir mischief as might have been the case. This  
eling was voiced in an article supposed to come  
om Newport, R. I., appearing in the "Courant,"  
hich concluded with the statement:

"We are advis'd from Boston that the govern-  
ment of Massachusetts are fitting out a ship to go

26      *Franklin as a Printer's Devil.*

after the Pirates to be commanded by Captain Peter Papillon and it is thought he will sail sometime this month, Wind and Weather permitting."

Shortly after the publication of the number containing this extremely offensive paragraph, the Council, with the Governor presiding, met and resolved "that the said Paragraph is a high affront to this Government."

Further, resolved, "That the Sheriff of the County of Suffolk do forthwith commit to the gaol in Boston the body of James Franklyn, Printer, for the gross offence offered to this Government in the Courant of Monday last."

A week's close confinement in the stone prison brought a change of mind, temporarily, at least, to James Franklin, as is witnessed in the following humble petition:

"A Petition of James Franklyn Printer, Humbly Shewing that he is Truly Sensible & Heartily Sorry for the offence he has Given to this Court, in the late Courant, relating to the fitting out a Ship By the Government, & Truly Acknowledges his Inadvertency & Folly therein in affronting the Government, as also his Indiscretion & Indecency, when before the Court, for all which he Entreats the Courts forgiveness, & praying a discharge from the Stone Prison, where he is Confined, by Order of the Court, and that he may have the Liberty

the Yard, He being much Indisposed & Suffering in health, by the Said Confinement."

Released from his uncomfortable quarters in jail, however, Franklin's "impudence" remained. Soon after, a single number of the "Courant" contained three articles, all of them objectionable to the government, and as a result a joint committee of three from the Council and four from the House was appointed to investigate his case. Its recommendation was that the General Court should forbid James Franklin to "print or publish the New England Courant or any Pamphlet or Paper of a like nature, except it be first justified by the Secretary of this Province," and that bonds should be exacted from him for his good behavior.

Young Benjamin Franklin in the meantime had been making progress in his elder brother's esteem, desiring to try his hand at writing but believing that James would be prejudiced against him because of his youth, he made a practice of writing short pieces and slipping them at night under the printing office door where they were found by his brother the next morning. The pieces were read and approved and it was gratifying to their youthful author to hear names of well-known persons in the community suggested as possibly responsible for them. Finally Benjamin, having written about that he felt able to write, revealed his deception

to his brother and his friends, much to their surprise.

A crisis having been reached by James in his publishing affairs, he turned now to Benjamin as affording a way out of his difficulties. He proposed that since he was unwilling to continue to publish the "Courant" under the supervision of the secretary as ordered by the Court, the paper thereafter be issued in Benjamin's name. The proposition was accepted. In order not to have the master still legally liable, the apprenticeship indentures were publicly cancelled, but, unwilling to surrender what he believed to be a good bargain, James secretly executed new indentures preserving the conditions of the old.

James Franklin was a hard task master. Also he was ill-natured, suspicious, taciturn, and his high-spirited young brother found it difficult to get on with him, particularly when arguments were supplemented with blows. Finally Benjamin notified James that he considered their relations at an end, knowing that James would not dare to produce the secret apprentice agreement. James accepted the resignation but as a means of retaliation for what he considered to be the injustice done him, visited the other printing offices in Boston and induced the owners to refuse to give work to his brother should he apply to them for it.

## CHAP. III.

### *The First "Tourist" Printer.*

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN was in a quandary.

He had devoted five years to an effort to enter the printing business and had attained a considerable proficiency in it. Aside from the printing establishments in Boston and Cambridge there were only four in the Colonies: one in New York, one in New York, and two in Philadelphia. Because of his brother's ill-natured rivalry all of those at hand were closed to him, leaving only that individual's own which he had just started and to which he was resolved he would not return.

To reach the other towns where printing offices were located meant either long, exhausting, and arduous walks through trackless forests or a journey by boat. To go by boat required the expenditure of passage money, of which he had none.

His sole possessions were the books he had been able to purchase with the scanty savings from his father's allowance, and from the precious books he was most reluctant to part. Besides, there was parental opposition to be encountered. The father sided with the elder brother in the dispute and the seventeen-year-old son knew that, should he ask for his father's consent to his plan to go away from home, not only would the consent be refused but



steps would be taken to prevent the carrying out of the project.

However, Benjamin resolved to go away and to go secretly. He sold some of his books and with the connivance of his friend Collins and the captain of a New York sloop, he went aboard a vessel bound for Manhattan Island. Three days of good weather and fair winds brought the vessel into New York Bay. The landing was made probably at the wharf at the foot of what is now known as Maiden Lane. A small stream ran down it at the time and entered the Bay at what was called the "V'lei Market," v'lei being old Dutch for valley. The one printing office of the town was conducted by William Bradford, "at the Sign of the Bible," on Hanover Square, not far away, and to it the youthful runaway apprentice immediately repaired.

Bradford had no employment to give to the boy and he suggested that the journey be extended to Philadelphia, where his son conducted one of the two printing offices of the town and who, through the recent death of a workman, was in need of help. Upon this advice Benjamin immediately proceeded to act.

There were three ways to go from New York to Philadelphia. One was over the Hudson River and by trail through the forest all the way across New Jersey to Camden, usually followed by those

could afford to ride horseback, and upon this

William Bradford, on some errand of his and unknown to the boy who had just called him, at once set out. A second route was by

from Manhattan Island across New York and around Staten Island to Amboy, at the mouth of the Shrewsbury River, thence on foot through the forest for fifty miles to Burlington, sixteen seventeen and eighteen miles above Philadelphia on the Delaware River, which at that

time is about a mile wide, the last stage of the journey being usually covered by boat. The third

route was by sailing vessel down the New Jersey coast and around and up through Delaware Bay, which route young Benjamin sent his "chest."

Benjamin chose the second route for himself, and his journey proved to be a most uncomfortable one. Besides the lack of bad weather, thirty hours were required for the passage from Manhattan Island to Amboy. The wind suddenly tore the rotten sails to pieces; a drunken seaman fell overboard and was rescued with difficulty; and it was necessary to drop anchor near Long Island shore of the bay and to spend the night in the open boat in the midst of the dingy surf, the entire period without anything to eat or to drink.

Benjamin finally reached Amboy, however, and

after a night spent in resting from his exposure and fatigue, he walked the fore part of the next

day through the rain to a poor inn, where wet and tired and thoroughly miserable he went to bed wishing he had never left home. The next day's walk brought him within ten miles of Burlington, and after another night spent at an inn, one more day brought him to the town.

He found to his regret that he had missed the regular boat to Philadelphia and that there would not be another for three or four days. He bought some gingerbread from a kindly disposed old woman, who sympathized with him in his predicament, and, learning that he was a printer, advised him to stay in Burlington and work at his trade. She did not know that something more than a pair of hands and a knowledge of how to use them would be required. On his explanation of the impracticability of her suggestion, she offered him lodging and entertainment for the three days of his prospective stay in Burlington, which offer he accepted, but later in the day while walking on the river bank he descried a boat bound for Philadelphia, in which he engaged passage and, without being able to return to the home of his hostess to say good-bye to her, was soon on his way.

At midnight, not having reached Philadelphia and fearing that they might pass it in the dark, the party landed and spent the night on shore. The next day they made an early start and soon were in the Quaker city.

## CHAP. IV.

*Samuel Keimer's Shop in Philadelphia.*

WAS on a bright Sunday morning late in October, 1723, that Benjamin Franklin arrived in Philadelphia, and he found himself in great contrast with his surroundings. He was dressed in working clothes, probably very similar to the dress of apprentices described in Chapter 2 of this volume, his "best clothes" (to use his own expression) being still in the boat which was bringing them around by sea. Not being especially presentable when new and clean, it can be imagined what the garb he wore looked like after a week or so of constant use on sea and land and on the long walks through mud and dust.

His pockets, of large capacity as was the case, were stuffed out with shirts and stockings; he was dirty, hungry, and with only a Dutch dollar left after parting from the shilling which he had had upon paying for his boatrike, against the protest of the boatmen because of his assistance in rowing, the runaway youth from Boston presented on his first entry into Philadelphia a figure of marked contrast to that of many years later, when he received a public ovation on his return from his ambassadorship to France.

His first concern was to obtain something to eat. On going up the street from the wharf, he met a

boy carrying bread, and ascertaining where it could be purchased, he went to the bakery and asked for three penny worth. In Boston it would have been only a moderate quantity, so he was surprised to receive three great puffy rolls. Having no room in his pockets, he put a roll under each arm, and, eating the third roll, walked up Market Street as far as Fourth Street. He passed the house in which lived Miss Deborah Read, who was standing upon the stoop, and she, struck by the uncouth figure which he made, tittered as he went by. It was an ungracious thing to do, but as Elbert Hubbard in his monograph on the Life of Franklin says, Benjamin in later years got good and even with her; he married her.

Benjamin found his way back to the wharf where, his hunger having been satisfied, he gave the two remaining rolls of bread to a woman and her child who had been in the boat with him and who were going farther. Later, he found his way to an inn called "The Crooked Billet," in Water Street, where he got dinner, and where he slept all afternoon and all night. Monday morning, having tidied up a bit, he presented himself at the shop of Andrew Bradford, printer, and, much to his surprise, found in the shop the old man, Bradford's father, whom he had seen in New York.

Andrew Bradford having no work for the young printer, the elder Bradford offered to show him to

the other Philadelphia printing shop, conducted by Samuel Keimer. Keimer placed a composing stick in the boy's hand to see how he would manage it and then said he would give him employment soon, having at the moment nothing for him to do.

William Bradford did not disclose his identity to Keimer, who thought the elder man to be a resident of the town. Keimer was willing to talk of his affairs and prospects and Bradford led him aptly on, thereby obtaining information that could not but be of interest, if not of profit, to Keimer's competitor, Bradford's son.

The part played by William Bradford in the little comedy caused Benjamin Franklin to refer to him in the "Autobiography" as a "crafty old sophister" which, however questionable his conduct may have been on this occasion, is not in keeping with his standing in New York. He was public printer of that state for fifty years, and of New Jersey for thirty years; was clerk of the New Jersey Assembly, and was vestryman for many years of Trinity Church in New York City.

Benjamin Franklin lodged with Andrew Bradford, in whose shop he did small jobs. A few days later he was sent for by Keimer and put regularly to work. Keimer's printing house was not much to boast of. There was an old shattered press which had never been used and which indeed,

THE  
INDEPENDENT  
VVHIG.

*Mary. Holland Nov. Decr. 1746*

*Nec ullum satis validum Imperium erat coercendis Seditionibus Populi,  
flagitia Hominum ut Cereponias Deum protegentis.*  
*Wrote by Thomas Gordon, Author of Cato's Letters.*

To the Lower House of CONVOCATION,

YOU, Gentlemen, who are the Representatives of the Clergy of *England*, are proper Patrons of a Work, which treats of Religion and the Clergy. It is written to promote Liberty, Virtue and Piety; the Interests of which, I hope, you will always espouse, and esteem as your own; and will consequently approve my Design, and give me your Thanks, whatever may have been the Success of my Endeavours.

The many wild and unscriptural Claims started, and imperiously maintain'd by very many of those you represent (and I wish I could say denied, tho' but faintly, by any considerable Number of others) gave Occasion to the following Sheets; and, having in them, shewn to my Brethren, the Laity, the Absurdity and Impiety of those Claims, by Arguments fetch'd from Reason, the Gospel, and the Laws of our Country; I shall, in this Address to your selves, endeavour to convince you, that it is your Interest to drop them; and if I can succeed in this Point, I presume, all other Arguments may be useless.

These Gentlemen, in the Heat of their Demands and Contention for Power, have gone so far towards *Rome*, and borrowed so many of her Principles, that I see no other Medium left for them, but either to proceed on in their Journey thither, (which, as they have manag'd Matters, is now

Printed by Samuel Keimer 1723-24. Benjamin Franklin probably set the type. Original in the possession of the Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia. Size 5 1/4" x 6 1/2".

what Franklin says of it, could not be used until it was in order. There was one pair of cases containing a small worn-out font of English, the reason for the delay in Benjamin's employment being the necessity of waiting until another pair of cases could be obtained.

Franklin worked steadily, saved a part of his wages, and made friends quickly. Keimer did not have the idea of his continuing to lodge with Andrew Bond, and being unmarried and having no money of his own, obtained a place for him in the household of Mr. Read, father of the Miss Deborah previously mentioned.

Among the friends he made was Sir William Keith, the English governor of the province, whose knowledge of the boy came through acquaintance with Captain Holmes, Benjamin's father-in-law, master of a sloop trading between Pennsylvania and Delaware. Governor Keith met Captain Holmes at Newcastle and being attracted by the letter from the boy which the Captain read to him, promised to call upon Benjamin on his return to Philadelphia. This, the Governor and his son, Colonel French, of Newcastle, later did, to the boy's bewilderment and Keimer's astonishment. The "Autobiography" says, in describing the visit: "Keimer stared like a pig when he saw him."

Sir William invited Benjamin to dine and con-



versed with him in the most friendly and familiar manner. He assured him, what he already knew, that the printers at Philadelphia were wretched workmen, and promised him if he would set up for himself that the public business would be given to him and that as Governor he would do every other service in his power. Keith urged Benjamin to return to Boston and secure his father's assistance and gave him what is described as an "ample" letter addressed to the elder Franklin, recommending the project of Benjamin's setting up at Philadelphia as a thing that must make his fortune.'

Accordingly Benjamin gave up his position with Keimer and returned to Boston. His appearance there was unexpected and created some commotion. The family was glad to see him, excepting possibly his brother, who, says Franklin, "received me not very frankly, looked me all over, and turned to his work again." Evidently James could not forget his former grievance. It can happily be recorded, however, that in later years a reconciliation was effected.

The workmen in the brother's printing office, however, were much interested. They had many questions to ask and were open-eyed with astonishment when Benjamin showed them a handful of silver money, carelessly exhibited his watch, and as a crowning act gave them "a piece of eight"

t a dollar) with which to purchase liquid  
ment.

ah Franklin was nearly seventy years of  
Fifty years of trouble under hard conditions  
mbued him with a very positive degree of  
rvatism. He received Governor Keith's let-  
th surprise, saying that he must be of small  
tion to propose setting up an eighteen-year-  
oy in business. He flatly declined to be a  
to the enterprise and wrote a civil letter in  
thanking the Governor for the offer, but  
g he considered his son too young to be trusted  
the management of a business so important.

was evidently pleased with his son's progress  
iladelphia, however, and gave a parental  
nt to his return. He advised the boy to  
ue to save his money, to cultivate friend-  
, and to avoid making enemies by "lampooning  
ibelling," and promised that if by the time  
min was of age he had saved enough money  
t a respectable figure in the matter of setting  
r himself in business, he would help out with  
ast.

his return to Philadelphia, Benjamin pre-  
d his father's letter to Governor Keith. Sir  
am on reading it said the father was too  
ent. He declared he himself would furnish  
noney, directed young Franklin to give him  
ventory of the equipment necessary and he

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would then send to England for it. Benjamin had kept his negotiations with the Governor a secret between them; if he had spoken to others about it, the real character of his official patron would probably have been revealed to him.

He prepared an inventory of the necessary equipment, costing about five hundred dollars. The Governor approved the plan of the outfit, as he probably would have approved any that would be presented to him, and asked if it would not be of advantage for the youthful printer himself to go to London to select the material. Benjamin said that it would be of advantage and arrangements were accordingly made for him to sail on a vessel plying between Philadelphia and London.



C H A P. V.

*Journeyman Printer in London.*

G OVERNOR KEITH frequently invited the young printer to his house, always referring during the visits to the proposed new business venture as a settled thing; letters to influential friends in England were promised, as well as letters of credit with which to purchase the press, types, paper, and other needed equipment. The letters, however, were never forthcoming when called for; finally the time arrived for leave-taking, and still

*man Printer in London.* 41

head, the Governor's secretary insisted that the Governor was extremely busy and that he must be at Newcastle before the ship sailed and there the letters would be de-

livered. Benjamin was at Newcastle when the ship sailed but was again too busy to be seen, and the secretary presented his excuses and insisted that the letters would be sent by the next vessel. Colonel French previously mentioned the Governor's despatches to the ship's captain, which the captain refused to take on the voyage when there would be no one to receive them when they arrived there were Benjamin Franklin, and then came

a merchant named Denham, who subsequently played an important if limited part in Franklin's life and who was sharing with him during the voyage, came forward with a knowledge of the affair and he showed Franklin of Sir William Keith's letter. Denham scoffed at the idea of giving a letter of credit, saying he could not give.

Benjamin sorrowfully accepted the conclusion that he had been deceived and that his dream of becoming a master-printer was not to be realized. His disappointment was keen, but he

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seems not to have felt any great degree of animosity toward its author. In later years he generously summed up Keith's character by saying: "He wished to please everybody; and, having little to give, he gave expectations. He was otherwise an ingenious, sensible man, and a good governor for the people, though not for his constituents, the proprietaries, whose instructions he sometimes disregarded." Keith was eventually removed from office and died in London in old age, neglected and destitute.

Arriving in London, Franklin and his friend, James Ralph, who had accompanied him, found themselves in a strange city with only fifteen pistoles, amounting to about sixty dollars, in Franklin's pocket and none in Ralph's. Ralph had some ability as a writer and expected to make his living with his pen, but was unsuccessful and after Franklin's stock of pistoles was exhausted went to a small village where he secured employment as a schoolmaster.

Franklin immediately secured work at Samuel Palmer's, a famous printing house in Bartholomew Close, which was the name of the enclosed space adjoining the Church of St. Bartholomew, the oldest church in London. The printing office was located in a part of the church called the Lady Chapel, at that time and for some time afterward devoted to secular uses. It has since been restored

to its original purposes and the attendant takes pride in saying to visitors, particularly to those from America, that it is the site of the printing office in which Benjamin Franklin worked at his trade. In the north ambulatory in the church is a tablet to Thomas Roycroft, printer of the Polyglot Bible of 1677.

Samuel Palmer was more than an ordinary printer. He had visited America, was letter-founder as well as printer, and was engaged in the writing of "A History of Printing," only a third of which he had completed when he died in 1732.

He proposed to issue his history in two parts: Part I, historical, which was published in 1632, the first history of printing in English; and Part II, practical. An interesting fact in connection with this proposal is that when it became known, to quote Timperley's "Dictionary of Printing," "it met with such early and strenuous opposition from the respective bodies of letter-founders, printers, and bookbinders, and under an ill-grounded apprehension that the discovery of the mystery of those arts, especially the two first, would render them cheap and contemptible . . . that he was forced to set it aside."

At Palmer's, Franklin was employed in setting the type for the third (not the second, as stated in the "Autobiography") edition of a work called Wollaston's "Religion of Nature." Some of its rea-

THE  
RELIGION  
OF  
NATURE  
DELINEATED.

Ἐνταυθα φηγοῦνται τὴν Δαισιδαίμονιαν ἐκτίθεσθαι εἰς Ἀσέβειαν ἀρετὴν ἢ  
ἀντίθετον, ἀπὸ ἀνθρώπων; Ἐν ΜΕΤΩ κεκρίθη τὴν Ἐποφάν. Phil.

Χαίρουσιν ἰδοὺς τὰς Τιμὰς τὰς τῶν πολλῶν ἀνθρώπων, τὴν Ἀσέβειαν  
ἀρετὴν, πεινῶσθαι τῷ διὰ δὲ ἀνθρώπων ἑλπίαι ὅτι ὅτι ὅτι, ὃ  
ἐκείνους ἀποδοῖσκω, ἀποδοῖσκω. Plato.



L O N D O N :

Re printed in the Year 1724, by SAM. PALMER and

Sold by BERNARD LINTOTT, at the Cross Keys between the Temple  
Gates; J. OSBORN, at the Oxford Arms in Lombard street; and  
W. and J. INNES, at the West-End of St. Pauls.

Title page of the second edition of "The Religion of Nature" for which Franklin says in the "Autobiography" he set the type. He wrote from memory and in this statement was in error. He arrived in London in November, 1724, and it was the third edition, published in 1725, upon which he worked. Original in possession of the author. Size 5" x 7 1/4".

soning appealing to him as unsound, he wrote "a little metaphysical piece," entitled "a Dissertation on Liberty and Necessity, Pleasure and Pain," in refutation. It brought him to the favorable attention of his employer, but because of its atheistic attitude Franklin afterward regretted its publication. He is said to have attempted to suppress the edition, but four copies of the pamphlet are in existence.

Franklin now decided to make two changes. His savings had disappeared and his rate of living made it difficult to set aside anything from his wages. He felt the necessity of obtaining an increased income and he accordingly sought and secured a position in a larger printing office, conducted by John Watts in Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, in another part of the city. Watts was one of the eminent printers of his time. He was largely instrumental in establishing the great type-founding house of Caslon & Company. William Caslon, its founder, was an engraver of ornamental devices on the barrels of firearms, who also made bookbinding stamps and dies that were noted by Watts for their neatness and accuracy. He introduced young Caslon to other prominent employing printers, with the result that three of them raised the sum of five hundred pounds with which to set Caslon up in business, Watts contributing one fifth of the amount,



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The second change decided upon by Franklin was occasioned by the fact that he was beginning to feel the want of exercise, to which he had been accustomed in America, and he therefore applied for a place in the pressroom instead of in the composing room. The press on which he worked was subsequently brought to America and is now preserved in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington. Later he returned to composing-room work, but in the same establishment. His expertness as a compositor resulted in his being placed on the rush work, which brought a higher rate of remuneration.

The entry of a new man into a London printing office at the time was marked by the imposition upon him by his fellow workmen of a tax for drink. Franklin paid the amount, five shillings, without demur, when he went into Watts' printing office, but objected to paying a similar sum on his transfer to the composing room of the same establishment. His employer agreed with him and forbade compliance with the demand. However, after two or three weeks, during which time he found his cases regularly mixed up, the pages of the form upon which he might be at work transposed, and other similar annoyances, all of which were ascribed to the chapel ghost, which it was explained "ever haunted those not regularly admitted," he surrendered and paid the tax.

His abstemiousness was the subject of comment because it was a belief among the workmen that to do strong labor one must needs partake of strong drink. Franklin says: "My companion at the refs drank every day a pint [of beer] before breakfast, a pint at breakfast with his bread and tea, a pint between breakfast and dinner, a pint at dinner, a pint in the afternoon about six o'clock, and another when he had done his day's work." Franklin showed them by example the fallacy of their belief as to the source of physical strength. On occasion," said he, "I carried up-and down-airs a large form of type in each hand, when others carried but one in both hands. They wondered to see from this and several instances, that he *Water-American*, as they called me, was *stronger than* themselves, who drank strong beer!"

Franklin's wages were usually considerably in excess of those of his fellows. He never made a "St. Monday," a holiday, observed by the other workmen while recovering from the week end's dissipation. He received higher wages also because of his superior ability, and he did not have four or five shillings to pay on Saturday night for drink consumed during the week, as did most of the others. He was soon lending money to them, carefully collecting it on pay day, with, one may be assured, a reasonable addition for interest.

Acquiring a standing among the men, he pro-

48     *Journeyman Printer in London.*

posed some alterations in their chapel laws which were made. He offered other suggestions also, one being the substitution for the usual pint of beer at breakfast of a "large porringer of hot water gruel, sprinkled with pepper, crumbed with bread and a bit of butter in it," which he convinced them made a cheaper breakfast and kept their heads clearer.

He had been lodging in Little Britain at three shillings and six pence (about eighty-four cents) a week. He removed to Duke Street, nearer Watts' printing office, at the same price, but deciding to obtain a cheaper lodging so as to increase his savings, he announced the fact to his landlady and she reduced the price to one shilling and six pence per week. It was a bargain, but lodgings were cheap, compared to modern standards, in that day. It was about the time that we find Dean Swift writing a letter to "Stella" in which he says of his quarters in Bury Street, one block away from Duke Street: "I have a first floor, a dining room and bedroom, at eight shillings a week, plaguety dear!"

Not far away from Duke Street is Craven Street, at No. 7 of which was Mrs. Margaret Stevenson's boarding-house, where lived Benjamin Franklin during the two periods of his representation of the American Colonies in England. The houses in the street were renumbered twice after he left; consequently when the Royal Society, of which he

As a member, in 1875 placed a tablet to his memory, it was attached to the wrong house, and patriotic Americans who visited it during the succeeding twenty years worshipped at the wrong shrine. Search the London County Council records in recent years has established the fact that it was at the house now numbered 36 that Franklin lived and at which he received so many of the world's elect. It is now a small hotel where those who make arrangements sufficiently in advance may occupy the room wanted so long by the great American.

An interesting fact in connection with this period of Franklin's life is that he was an expert swimmer, and so far as is known, he was America's first amateur athlete. With his accustomed thoroughness he read books that dealt with the theory and practice of water sports; gave exhibitions that attracted comment to the point that financial aid was forthcoming in a project to establish a natatorium in London for him, and it was further proposed that he travel in Europe, giving exhibitions of his dexterity as a swimmer.

He laid the matter before his Quaker merchant friend Denham, with whom he had kept in association, who discouraged it and advised him to return to America. Denham was about to go back to Philadelphia with a quantity of goods with which to open a store, and he proposed to Benjamin that he go along and take a position as clerk, keep the

books, copy letters, and attend the wants of customers. Later there was to be advancement, Denham offered the equivalent of one hundred and sixty-seven dollars a year as remuneration, which was less than Franklin was then receiving as a compositor, but with the ever-present desire of the compositor to "get away from the case" the offer proved tempting and was accepted. Accordingly they sailed together from England, July 23, 1726.



## CHAP. VI.

### *A Plan of Life.*

A VOYAGE across the Atlantic Ocean in the early years of the Eighteenth Century was something of an undertaking. The ships were small and uncomfortable at best, and during bad weather the conditions became almost unendurable. The great changes for the better in ocean travel that two hundred years have brought are indicated in the paper which Franklin wrote entitled: "Precautions to Be Used by Those Who Are About to Undertake a Sea Voyage." He gives, among other things, a list of the viands with which each passenger should equip himself, for says he, "the most disagreeable thing at sea is the Cookery; for there is not properly speaking any profess'd Cook on board. The worst sailor is generally

en for that purpose, who for the most part is  
lly dirty.”  
; to the passenger’s equipment, he advises that  
mall Oven made of tin Plates is not a bad piece  
urniture; your Servant may roast in it a piece  
utton or Pork.” He warns against the carry-  
of live provisions. “With regard to Poultry  
almost useless to carry any with you unless you  
ve to undertake the Office of feeding and fat-  
ng them yourself. With the little care which  
ken of them on board ship they are almost all  
ly and their flesh is as tough as Leather.”  
he voyage upon which Franklin and his mer-  
t friend and employer Denham embarked  
ed eleven and one half weeks and the diary  
nklın kept shows the trip grew so irksome that  
inally began to wonder if it would ever come to  
end. “For my part,” he wrote, “I know not  
it to think of it. . . . Sure the American  
tinent is not all sunk under Water since we left  
I rise in the Morning and read for an hour or  
perhaps and then Reading grows tiresome.  
nt of Exercise occasions want of Appetite so  
t Eating and Drinking afford but little Pleas-  
. I tire myself with playing at Drafts, then I  
to Cards; nay, there is no Play so trifling or  
ldish but we fly to it for Entertainment.”  
uch a dull existence afforded plenty of oppor-  
ity for meditation, This fact and Franklin’s

usual habit of reflection led him to draw up himself a plan of life. "Those who write of the Art of Poetry," he said, "teach us, that, if we would write what may be worth Reading, we ought always, before we begin, to form a regular Plan and design of our Piece; otherwise we shall be in Danger of Incongruity. I am apt to think it is the same as to Life. I have never fix'd a regular Design in Life, by which means it has been a confused Variety of different Scenes. I am now entering upon a new one; let me, therefore, make some Resolutions, and form some Scheme of Action that henceforth I may live in all Respects like a rational Creature.

"1. It is necessary for me to be extremely frugal for some time till I have paid what I owe.

"2. To endeavor to speak Truth in every instance, to give Nobody Expectations that are unlikely to be answered, but aim at Sincerity in every Word and Action; the most amiable Excellence in a rational Being.

"3. To apply myself industriously to whatever Business I take in hand, and not divert my mind from my Business by any foolish Project of growing suddenly rich; for Industry and Patience are the surest Means of Plenty.

"4. I resolve to speak ill of no Man whatever not even in a matter of Truth; but rather by some means excuse the Fault I hear charged upon others and upon proper Occasions, speak all the good I know of Everybody."

To this plan he later made additions. One of them consisted of a set of twelve virtues, which he resolved to practise as follows:

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Temperance | 7. Sincerity     |
| 2. Silence    | 8. Justice       |
| 3. Order      | 9. Moderation    |
| 4. Resolution | 10. Cleanliness  |
| 5. Frugality  | 11. Tranquillity |
| 6. Industry   | 12. Chastity     |

After practising them for some time he found he was doing so well that he had grown proud of the fact, which, as he reflected that pride was a vice, caused him to add another to the table of virtues:

### 13. Humility

Remembering the advice of the Greek philosopher, Pythagoras, to the effect that daily examination is a necessary corollary to an attempt to attain perfection, he prepared a chart upon which it was his custom to check himself up at the close of the day. Of this system of self-examination he says:

"I made a little Book, in which I allotted a Page for each of the Virtues. I ruled each Page with red Ink, so as to have seven Columns, one for each Day of the Week, marking each Column with a Letter for the day. I crossed these Columns with thirteen red Lines, marking the beginning of each Line with the first Letter of one of the V



tues, on which Line, and in its proper Column I might mark, by a little black Spot, every Fault found upon examination to have been committed respecting that Virtue upon that Day."

The diagram was arranged something like that shown on the next page.

This chart was at first drawn in a memorandum book made of paper which, because of the frequent markings, proved not to be sufficiently durable; consequently it was transferred to one made of ivory leaves and the records were thus kept for many years.

Order was the one virtue in which throughout his whole life Benjamin Franklin found it difficult to attain anything approaching perfection. On this fault he wrote: "In Truth, I found myself incorrigible with respect to Order; and now I am grown old, and my Memory bad, I feel very sensibly the Want of it."

While Franklin was Minister to France, William Alexander wrote to him, "Will you forgive me my Dear Sir for noticing, that your Papers seem to me to lye a little loosely about your hands you are to consider yourself as surrounded by spies and amongst People who can make a Cable from a Thread; would not a spare half hour per day enable your Son to arrange all your Papers, useless or not, so that you could come at them sooner, and not One be visible to a prying eye?" John Adams,

# TEMPERANCE

EAT NOT TO DULLNESS  
DRINK NOT TO ELEVATION

	S.	M.	T.	W.	T.	F.	S.
T.							
S.							
O.							
R.							
F.							
I.							
S.							
J.							
M.							
C.							
T.							
C.							
H.							

Diagram Franklin used in checking up his observance of the thirteen virtues.

who usually saw something to remedy in every situation, when he joined the embassy in Paris according to Parton, at once "objected to the disarrangement of the papers, and very properly addressed himself to the task of putting the embassy in order. He procured letter books and pigeon-holes, and performed a great deal of useful, and perhaps some superfluous, labor, in arranging and rectifying the affairs of the office. In a word, he put the office into red tape."

Fully realizing the need for all the check he could put upon his tendency to neglect the observance of Order in his affairs, Franklin early in life devised a plan to cover the twenty-four hours of the day, as follows:

- THE MORNING ( 5) Rise, wash, and address  
 ( ) Powerful Goodness!  
 Question. What good shall I do this day? ( 6) Contrive day's business, and take the  
 ( ) resolution of the day;  
 ( 7) prosecute the present study, and breakfast.  
 ( 8) Work.  
 ( 9)  
 (10)  
 (11)  
 (12) Read, or overlook my accounts, and dine.  
 ( 1) Work.

	( 2)
	( 3)
	( 4)
	( 5)
EVENING	( 6) Put things in their
Question. What good	places.
have I done to-day?	( 7) Supper. Music or diver-
	( 8) tion, or conversation.
	( 9) Examination of the day.
NIGHT	(10) Sleep.
	(11)
	(12)
	( 1)
	( 2)
	( 3)
	( 4)

Always a deep thinker on all important subjects, Franklin meditated long and earnestly upon that of religion and as a result formulated his own creed, which he said he felt contained the essentials of every known religion. It was as follows:

"That there is one God who made all Things.

"That he governs the World by his Providence.

"That he ought to be worshipped by adoration, prayer, and thanksgiving.

"But that the most acceptable service of God is doing good to Man.

"That the Soul is immortal.

"And that God will certainly reward Virtue and punish Vice, either here or hereafter."

Conceiving God to be the fountain of all wisdom, he supplemented his creed with this prayer of his own composition:

"O powerful Goodness! bountiful Father! merciful Guide! Increase in me that wisdom which discovers my truest interest. Strengthen my resolutions to perform what that wisdom dictates. Accept my kind offices to Thy other children as the only return in my power for Thy continual Favors to me."



## CHAP. VII.

### *In Philadelphia Again as Foreman of Keimer's Shop.*

MR. DENHAM set up his store in Water Street. He and his young clerk took living quarters together and for six months everything went along satisfactorily to both. Then both fell ill and although Franklin recovered Mr. Denham did not. The store was taken charge of by his executors and Franklin was under the necessity of finding a new position.

He tried to secure employment as a merchant's clerk, but, nothing offering, he accepted an offer from Samuel Keimer to take charge of his shop, in which was now employed a force of several hands. None was efficient, however, and it was for the

purpose of making them --

Franklin what was at that time a high rate of wages.

Franklin saw that what Keimer evidently had in mind was to employ him until the workmen, two of whom were bound servants, had attained some measure of the skill at the printing trade which Franklin had brought back from London, and then to dispense with the instructor's services. Notwithstanding that fact, however, the foremanship was accepted. The position was made attractive further, by the fact that Keimer closed his shop on Saturday and Sunday, which gave additional time for reading and study.

The new foreman proceeded to set the shop in order and to instruct the workmen. As they increased in usefulness Keimer began to grumble at what he said were the high wages he was paying to Franklin. At the end of the second quarter he demanded a rearrangement at a lower rate of pay. He became dictatorial in his manner, made frequent complaints, and the break finally came over a trivial occurrence which is described in the "Autobiography" as follows:

"At length a Trifle snapp'd our connections; for, a great noise happening near the Court-House, I put my Head out of the window to see what was the matter. Keimer, being in the street look'd up and saw me, call'd out to me in a loud Voice

and angry Tone to mind my Business, adding some reproachful Words, that nettled me the more for their publicity, all the Neighbors who were looking out on the same occasion, being Witnesses how I was treat'd. He came up immediately into the Printing-House, continu'd the Quarrel, high Words pass'd on both sides, he gave me the quarter's Warning we had stipulat'd, expressing a wish that he had not been oblig'd to so long a Warning. I told him his wish was unnecessary, for I would leave him that instant; and so, taking my Hat, walk'd out of doors, desiring Meredith, whom I saw below, to take care of some things I left, and bring them to my lodgings."

Hugh Meredith, referred to above, is described as a "Welsh Pennsylvanian, thirty years of age, bred to country work, honest, sensible, had a great deal of solid Observation, was something of a Reader, but given to drink." He called upon Franklin in the evening to talk matters over. He disapproved of Franklin's determination to return to Boston, and suggested that they set up a partnership together, saying that his father would furnish the necessary capital as an offset to Franklin's knowledge of printing, on a basis of an equal distribution of the profits. The father being in town, a further consultation was held, with a result that an inventory of a printing shop was given to a merchant with instructions to send it to London to be filled.

Franklin applied to Andrew Bradford for work, but was told there was none for him. After remaining idle a few days, Keimer, having in prospect an opportunity to secure the printing of the paper money of the Province of New Jersey, sent a civil message to Franklin, with the result that he returned to Keimer's employment. The New Jersey order was obtained, Franklin constructed a copper-plate press on which to print the money, cut ornaments for use in the design of the paper bills, and went to Burlington, then the capital of New Jersey, where he remained three months.

The one-story building which he fitted up as a printshop in Burlington has been preserved as a museum by a patriotic society because of his early connection with it. During his stay in Burlington he made many influential friends among the leading men of the capital, who rendered valuable assistance to him when he later went into business for himself.



## CHAP. VIII.

### *The New Firm of Franklin and Meredith.*

THE outfit ordered from London arrived at about the time Franklin finished the work for which he went to Burlington for Keimer, and also at about the expiration of the period for which



62     *Firm of Franklin and Meredith.*

Hugh Meredith was bound to Keimer. Meredith's father advanced one hundred pounds, one half the money required, with a promise of the remainder at an early date. They rented a house in the lower part of Market Street at twenty-four pounds a year and sub-let the greater part of it to Thomas Godfrey, with whom Franklin took lodgings. Godfrey used his portion of the house for the living quarters of his family and to accommodate his own business, which was that of a glazier.

A countryman walking along the street and looking for a printer was the first customer, having been brought in by one of Franklin's friends. "This man's five shillings," says Franklin, "being our first fruits, and coming so seasonably, gave me more pleasure than any crown I have since earned."

The second order was to print forty sheets of a work entitled "The History of the Rise, Increase and Progress of the Christian People Called Quakers." Keimer had undertaken it, but had failed to complete it in time. Giving an estimated price on the work, Franklin did what printers have been known to do before and since, quoted too low. When that fact became apparent he resolved that the only course to follow would be to produce one sheet every day, and so, even when interrupted by other work, he would finish the sheet before going to bed, and to do this he was obliged often to work until eleven o'clock at night. He did the

THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
RISE, INCREASE, and PROGRESS,  
Of the CHRISTIAN PEOPLE called  
*QUAKERS:*  
Intermixed with Several  
*Remarkable Occurrences.*

---

Written Originally in *LOW-DUTCH*, and also Translated Into *ENGLISH*,

---

By *WILLIAM SEWEL.*

---

*The THIRD EDITION, Corrected.*

---

*PHILADELPHIA:*  
Printed and Sold by *SAMUEL KEIMER* in *Second Street.*  
*MDCCLXXVIII*

This work was begun by Samuel Keimer in 1725 and finished in 1728 with the assistance of the new firm of Franklin and Meredith, being their first large order. Original in the Typographic Library and Museum of the American Type Founders Company, Jersey City, N. J. Size 5 $\frac{7}{16}$ " x 10 $\frac{1}{16}$ ".

64 *Firm of Franklin and Meredith.*

type composition and Meredith the presswork. One night just as a form of two pages had been completed it was pried, but true to his resolution he set to work and did not leave the printing office until the piece had been distributed and the page set up again and printed.

The new firm made a favorable impression, one reason being the superior quality of its work. Franklin knew how to set type correctly, how to operate and keep a press in order, and how to get good effects upon it. Neither Bradford nor Keimer was noted for the excellence of his printing, thus giving an opening to the young printers, of which they were quick to take advantage.

A notable instance was in connection with the public printing. Bradford was postmaster and printer of the laws and other public documents. On one occasion he printed an address of the House to the Governor in a coarse, blundering manner. Franklin and Meredith reprinted it correctly and in good style, and sent a copy to every member of the House. "They were sensible of the difference," Franklin says; "it strengthened the hands of our friends in the House, and they voted us their printers for the year ensuing."

A difficulty soon presented itself to Franklin and Meredith in the shape of a demand from the merchant who had brought their outfit from London for the payment of the second half of the purchase

price. After some discussion, Meredith, who had come to the conclusion that he never would be successful as a printer, offered to withdraw from the firm on the following terms as stated to his partner: "If you will take the debts of the company upon you, return to my father the hundred pounds he has advanced, pay my little personal debts and give me thirty pounds and a new saddle, I will relinquish the partnership. and leave the whole in your hands."

Two of Franklin's personal friends came forward with an offer of the money required to pay off the whole sum due, which offer was accepted and the title of the firm was changed to read: "B. Franklin, Printer."

The interest of his powerful friend Andrew Hamilton, whose acquaintance was made at the beginning of the voyage to England two or three years before, which voyage, however, Mr. Hamilton at the last moment was prevented from making, now obtained the printing of the Newcastle paper money and the laws of that government, which patronage Franklin retained as long as he continued in business.

The affairs of B. Franklin, Printer, continued to prosper. In 1729, Samuel Keimer went into bankruptcy, sold his printing office, and retired to Barbadoes. One of his apprentices, David Harry, bought the materials and set up in his place.

66 *Firm of Franklin and Meredith.*

He had many friends and Franklin, fearing his competition, proposed a partnership, which, fortunately for him, Harry rejected. He neglected his business, however, and soon followed Keimer to Barbadoes, taking the printing outfit with him. This left Franklin with but a single rival for the patronage of Philadelphia, Andrew Bradford, who gave more attention to the post office than he did to his printing office and proved therefore not an aggressive competitor.

Franklin now began to think of marriage. His landlady interested herself in the matter and what happened may perhaps be best expressed in his own words:

“Mrs. Godfrey project’d a Match for me with a relation’s Daughter, took opportunities of bringing us often together, till a serious Courtship on my part ensu’d, the Girl being in herself very deserving. The old Folks encourag’d me by continual Invitations to Supper, and by leaving us together, till at length it was Time to explain. Mrs. Godfrey manag’d our little Treaty. I let her know that I expect’d as much Money with their Daughter as would pay off my remaining Debt for the Printing-House, which I believe was not then above a hundred Pounds. She brought me word they had no such sum to spare. I said they might mortgage their House in the Loan-Office. The answer to this, after some Days, was that they did not approve the Match; that, on inquiry of Bradford, they had been inform’d the Printing

Business was not a profitable one; the Types would soon be worn out, and more want'd; that S. Keimer and D. Harry had fail'd one after the other and I should probably soon follow them; and therefore I was forbidden the House, and the Daughter shut up."

Franklin was in doubt as to whether this action expressed the real sentiments of the young woman's family, or whether it was a device to prompt them to contract a runaway marriage, which would put the family in the position of providing a dowry or not, as they chose. He resolved to give no further consideration to the matter, whereupon Mrs. Godfrey renewed the overtures. He held to his decision and as a result there was a falling out between him and the Godfreys, who removed from the house, which he then decided to retain wholly for his own use.

"But," says he, "this affair having turn'd my Thoughts to Marriage, I look'd round me and made overtures of Acquaintance in other Places; but soon found that, the Business of a Printer being generally thought a poor One, I was not to expect Money with a Wife, unless with such a One as I should not otherwise think agreeable."

He renewed his acquaintance with Miss Deborah Read and on September 1, 1730, they were married. Of this marriage Franklin said: "She proved a good and faithful helpmate, assisted me much by attending the Shop; we strove together, and have ever mutually endeavor'd to make each other happy."

*Publisher and Bookseller.*

IF A Philadelphian in 1728," says James Par-ton, "had been asked to name the business by which, in Philadelphia, a stranger could make a fortune in twenty years, the business of a printer would have been among the very last to occur to him. There was no good book-store south of Boston, it is true, but also there was no general regard for books south of Boston. Except Mr. James Logan, who had a superb library, and perhaps three or four persons besides, there was no one in Philadelphia who had the true passion for books, until our young printer infused it into them. Franklin, like poets that Wordsworth speaks of, had to create the taste by gratifying which he was to thrive. Almanacs, hymn-books, low-priced books of religious controversy, and very rudimental school-books, were the staple commodities of the Philadelphia book-store in the olden time. It was not safe to publish any book higher than eighteen pence, except by subscription. Of the books published in the Colonies before the Revolution, nine tenths, at least, appear to have been sold at less than eighteen pence. The whole business of printing was trivial, and could be made profitable only by prosecuting successfully a great number of petty projects."

Although Franklin and Meredith began to print in 1728, the first issue of their press listed by Charles R. Hildeburn in his remarkably complete work, "A Century of Printing; The Issues of the Press in Pennsylvania," is "A Modest Inquiry into the Nature and Necessity of a Paper Currency, Print'd and Sold at the New Printing Office near the Market, 1729." Seven other publications are ascribed to Franklin and Meredith for that year, two of which do not show their imprint, but are known to be from their press.

One pamphlet bearing their imprint was not printed by them. It is entitled "A Touch of the Times," and was written and printed by Keimer as an answer to an article in the "Mercury" which he considered to be aimed at himself, and wrongfully ascribed on the title page to the "New Printing Office." It brought forth the following advertisement in the "Mercury" dated April 24, 1729:

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THIS may inform those that have been induc'd to think otherwise, That the silly Paper, call'd a Touch of the Times, &c. was Wrote, Print'd and Publish'd by Mr. Keimer; and that his putting the words New Printing Office at the Bottom, and instructing the Hawkers to say it was done there is an Abuse."

---

Franklin's publication of the "Pennsylvania Gazette" began in 1729, and "Poor Richard's Alma-



o. *Soll ich in diesem Jammerthal  
Noch langer in armuth leben,  
So hoff ich doch, Gott wird mir dort  
Ein bessere Wohnung geben*

# GROSS BRITANNIEN.

Nachdem die Friedens- und Kriegsaffären in Europa eine gewisse Zeit her mit einem sehr wankelbahren Fuß gestanden, und man einige Jahre herent in den wanken stehend denen Friedenshandlungen obgelegen, so hat doch endlich der König von Groß Britannien, durch den ihm bewohnenden Ritter das beste seine Unterthanen zu bevorzugen, die letzte Hand an Werk gesetzt, und durch einen Traktat, welchen er den 10. März verwichenen Jahres zu Wien mit dem Kaiser genehmigt, den Frieden und die Ruhe in Europa befestigt; Zu diesem Traktat ist Spanien und Holland auch getreten; Frankreich allein schwebet darüber sehr unverschieden.

gen und die spanische nach Livorno zu transporten, welche Introduction auch glücklich in sich gegungen, und anlaß gegeben zu einer Anrede des Königs am 13. Jun zu die beyde Häuser des Parlaments, welche wir wegen Enge des Raums auf eine andere Gelegenheit versparen wollen.

*London den 29. Jan.* Verwichenen Mittwoch abends um 9 Uhr, gab der Graf Balthazar, erster Minister der Hannoverischen Affären, in seinem Hause in S. James Park, nach einer lang gedauerten unspäßlichkeit, der Zeitlichkeit gute nacht. Er hat über 27. Jahr in England gewohnt. Sein Zeichnam soll balthusirt, nach Hannover gebracht und bey seinen Vordern zur Eidenbestimmung werden.

*London den 3. Feb.* In einem Schreiben von Barcelona wird gemeldet, daß vor 2 Tagen in die dortigen Intendanten ordie gekommen, eine Armee von 30000 Mann fertig zu halten, und höchstge auf diese mächen, dies selbige den 25. März nebst aller dazu gehörigen Artillerie königliche eingeschifft werden doch weiß noch niemand worauf dieses mochte angesehen seyn.

## PHILADELPHIA. 6. May.

Von Mott's Vineyard hat man, das die vor einiger Zeit nicht angekommenen Plutzer, welche auf ihrer langen reise von Rotterdam so selbst sind behandelt worden, mit Captain Loyd neuerdher haben sie hier zu führen, und werden nunmehr täglich erwartet.

Von England wird berichtet, daß der Prokurator diesen Rathlag noch nicht angekommen werde, auch daß er alsdann, dem Vergleich mit Mylord Bishopp gestehen, die Linie kühn lassen wolle.

Am verwichenen Sonntag nachmittage unter während dem Gottesdienst entstand hier ein heftiger Brand in der Bath & Co. Stadt haufe. Phisiker der Zeit schon zu der Klagen, und fast sich eine große Menge Verletzte bey dem Brand, doch kam das Glück nicht wie zu werden. Wenn er des nachts ausgebrochen, und der Wasser nicht eben hoch in dem graben gewesen wäre, so wäre ein viel größeres schick daraus haben können entstehen, weil die Stämme schon vertheilte andere Wunden ergiffen. Die Brandstifter schenken bey dieser sehr nicht große diente, und so derman war willig zu helfen, dergestalt, daß die Wohnhauser auch, wenn nicht ohne schaden, ist errettet worden.

Vergangenen Woche hat es sich begeben, daß ein naßes, welches einige Zeit zuvor sehr melancholisch gewesen, in einem Sloop das River hinab gefahren, und die Gelegenheit wahrgenommen, wenn man in der Cabinen war, eine Plume genommen und an den springer der Lahn ein Stück gebunden, das Mündloch unter die Hand gesteckt und sich also selbst erst hoch, daß der Schutzhinter neben der Schutzhinter heraus gangen, und so wenige Stunden hernach daran gestorben.

*Hier sind folgende Schiffe angekommen.*  
Brigg Warren, Tho Ramsey, von Dublin.  
Snow Lovely Hannah, J Wilcock, von Antigua.  
Sloop Dove, John Rhee, von South Carolina.  
Sloop John, Abt Hayer, von North Carolina.  
Ship Diamond, Will. Donaldson, von Bristol.  
Snow Mary Ann, Job Pearce, von St. Christopher.  
*Preise selbiger Güter.* Weizen der Dufchel 8 schill 6 pence Fein Mehl, der Gemmer 8 schill. Mühl Brod 12. sch. neuzeit, 10. sch. braun, 9. sch. Rum, ein Gallon 2 sch. 4. p. Melasse 16. p.

## BEKANTMACHUNG.

*Über vorher Kleber-Saamen vor bil-*  
*liten preisen und von der Geringe Fittwaten,*  
*in der Markt Straße, Philadelphia.*

PHILADELPHIA. Gedruckt bey H. Franklin in der Markt-Straße, wo diese Zeitungen zu bekommen und Bekandmachungen zu thun sind.

Fourth page of Franklin's German newspaper.

# Philadelphische Zeitung.

S A M B S T A G, den 6 Mey. 1732.

*Au alle teutsche Einwohner der Provinz Pennsylvania.*

NACHDEM ich von verschiedenen teutschen Einwohnern dieses Landes bin erfuchet worden, eine teutsche Zeitung ausgehen zu lassen, und ihnen darinnen das vornehmste und merckwürdigste neues, so hier und in Europa vorfallen möchte, zu communiciren; doch aber hierzu viele mühe, große correspondenz und auch Unkosten erfordert werden; Als habe mich entschlossen, denen teutschen zu lieb gegenwärtiges Specimen davon heraus zu geben, und ihnen dabey die Conditiones welche nothwendig zu der continuation derselben erfordert werden, bekant zu machen.

Erstlich, müssen zum wenigsten, um die unkosten die darauf lauffen, gut zu machen, 300 stücs können gedruckt und debituet werden, und müste in jeder Township dazu ein mann ausgemacht werden, welcher mir wissen liefse, wie viel Zeitungen jedes mahl an ihn müssen gesandt werden, und dor sie dan weiterzeihen jeglichen zustellen und die bezahlung davor einfordern müste.

Vor jede Zeitung muß jährlich 10 Shillings erlegt, und davon alle Quartal 2 sh. 6 d. bezahlet werden.

Dagegen verspreche ich auf meiner seite, durch gute Correspondentz die ich in Holland und England habe allezeit das merckwürdigste und neueste so in Europa und auch hier passiret, alle

woche einmahl, nemlich Sonntags in gegenwärtiger form einer Zeitung, nebst denen schiffen so hier abgehen und ankommen, und auch das steigen oder fallen des Preisses der Quier, und was sonst zu wissen dienlich bekandt zu machen.

Advertisements oder Bekant machungen, welche man an mich schicken möchte, sollen das erste mahl vor 3 shill. 3 mahl aber vor 5 shill. hinein gesetzt werden.

Und weil ich nützlich erachte die gantze beschreibung der aufrichtung dieser provintz, mit allen derselben privilegien, rechten und gesetzen, bey crmangelung genugsamer Neuigkeiten, darinnen bekandt zu machen; sothe nicht undienlich seyn, dass ein jeder, zumahl wer kinder hat, diese Zeitungen wohl bewahre, und am ende des jahres an einander hefte; zumahl da solche dann gleichsam als eine Chronica dienen können, die vorigen Geschichte daraus zu erschen, und die folgende desto besser zu verstehen.

Auch wird anbey zu bedencken gegeben, ob es nicht ratsam wäre, in jeder grossen Township einen reitenden Boten zu bestellen, welcher alle woche einmahl nach der stadt reiten und was ein jeder da zu bestellen hat, mit nehmen könne.

So bald nun die obgemelte anzahl der Unterschreiber vorhanden, welche so bald als möglich ersuche in Philadelphia

Title page of the first number of Franklin's German newspaper.  
Size 5½" x 8".

nack" was established in 1732. Each will be dealt with at length in separate chapters.

The issues of Franklin's press, exclusive of the "Pennsylvania Gazette," "Poor Richard's Almanack," the "Philadelphische Zeitung," and the "General Magazine," between the years 1729 and 1748, in which latter year the active management of the printing office was turned over to David Hall, numbered more than seven hundred, in which is included everything from a single sheet to pretentious volumes of several hundred pages each.

Early in 1741 Franklin began the publication of "The General Magazine and Historical Chronicle for all the British Plantations in America, to be Continu'd Monthly." A part of the announcement of the new magazine in the "Pennsylvania Gazette" was to this effect:

"We desire no subscriptions. We shall publish the Books at our own Expence, and risk the sale of them, which Method, we suppose, will be most agreeable to our Readers, as they will then be at Liberty to buy only what they like, and we shall be under the constant Necessity of endeavoring to make every particular Pamphlet worth their Money."

The "General Magazine" came out late in the month and followed by three days the publication by Andrew Bradford of the first number of "The American Magazine or a Monthly View of the

A New Version  
 OF THE  
 P S A L M S  
 OF  
 D A V I D,  
 Fitted to the T U N E S Ufed  
 I N  
 CHURCHES.  
 B Y  
 N. Brady, D. D. Chaplain in Ordinary,  
 and N. Tate, Esq; Poet Laureat to His  
 M A J E S T Y.  
 P H I L A D E L P H I A:  
 Printed and Sold by B. FRANKLIN,  
 at the New Printing-Office, near the  
 Market. Sold also by A. Bradford, at  
 the Bible in Second-Street. 1755.

The seventh edition of this work, printed in 1729, was the first important production of Franklin's press. In speaking of the deplorable tendency of people to prefer light literature he said: "An impression of the Psalms of David had been upon my shelves for above two years," yet he had "known a large impression of Robin Hood's Songs to go off in a twelve month." Original in the possession of the Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia. Size 24" x 41".

C. A T O's  
M O R A L  
D I S T I C H S

*Englisbed in Couplets.*

---



---

PHILADELPHIA:  
Printed and Sold by B. FRANKLIN, 1735.

Franklin's first reprint of a classic. He said "The Cato Major" (1744) was "the first translation of a classic in the Western World," forgetting this edition of the "Moral Distichs" and Samuel Keimer's publication in 1729 of "Epicretus his Morals." Original in the possession of the Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia. Size 4" x 6".

A  
T R E A T Y  
O F  
*FRIENDSHIP*  
MADE WITH THE  
CHIEFS OF THE SIX NATIONS,  
AT  
PHILADELPHIA.  
IN  
SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER, 1736.

---



---

PHILADELPHIA.  
Printed and Sold by B. FRANKLIN, at the New Printing Office  
near the Market. M,DCC,XXXVII.

First issue of the Indian Treaties.  
Now in the possession of the Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia.  
Size 5 1/8" x 9 1/8".

**The AMERICAN MAGAZINE**

OR  
A MONTHLY VIEW OF

*The Political State*  
OF THE BRITISH COLONIES:

For FEBRUARY, 1740-1.

(To be Continued Monthly)

Containing,

I. Continuation of the REMARKS  
on the MARYLAND Govern-  
ment.

II. PROCEEDINGS in the Assem-  
bly of that Province.

III. PROCEEDINGS of the As-  
sembly of PENNSYLVANIA,  
in Relation to the Indulging of  
Servants.

IV. PROCEEDINGS of the As-  
sembly of NEW-YORK, re-

specting the King's Instructi-  
ons to make Provisions for the  
Troops, directed to be raised  
there.

V. An Account of the SPEECHES  
in Assembly of his Excel-  
lency the Governor of NEW-  
JERSEY.

VI. The PRESENT STATE of  
the WAR.

VII. The AFFAIRS of EUROPE.

PHILADELPHIA: Printed and Sold by ANDREW BRADFORD  
(Price One Shilling, Pennsylvania Currency, or 10<sup>cts</sup> Pence Sterling.)

Title page of the second number of "The American Magazine." From the file in the possession of the New York Historical Society, the only copies known to be in existence. The title page of the first number is missing. Size 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

T H E  
GENERAL MAGAZINE,  
A N D  
*Historical Chronicle,*

For all the *British* Plantations in *America*.

[To be Continued Monthly.]

---

J A N U A R Y, 1741.

---



---

VOL. I.

---

PHILADELPHIA:

Printed and Sold by B. FRANKLIN.

Title page of the "General Magazine," the second magazine established in the Colonies. It bears the coronet of the Prince of Wales, of Hanoverian ancestry, which accounts for the German motto. Original in the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Public Library. Size 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 6".



Political State of the British Colonies." The publication of the two magazines had been preceded by a wordy dispute in the newspapers between Franklin and John Webbe, the editor of the "American Magazine." Franklin claimed that the idea of publishing a magazine in the American Colonies originated with him and that he had concluded with Webbe an agreement to edit it, but that Webbe had broken faith, and had betrayed Franklin by laying the plan before Bradford and inducing him to enter into an agreement on better terms than those arranged for with Franklin.

On the title page of the "General Magazine" appeared a wood cut reproduction of the Prince of Wales' coronet with three plumes and the motto "Ich dien." The contents consisted of theological controversy, proceedings of Parliament, governors' speeches, and extracts from books, very little of the matter being original, and practically none of it of the interesting character of that to be found in the "Gazette" and "Poor Richard's Almanack." The information was useful, but not calculated to attract a wide circle of readers.

The magazine edited by Webbe and issued by Bradford lasted three months. Of Franklin's "General Magazine" six of the monthly numbers were published. It contained sixty pages,  $2\frac{7}{8}$  x  $5\frac{7}{8}$  inches in size, and was set in type corresponding to modern six point and ten point solid. Only

A  
CATALOGUE  
OF  
CHOICE AND VALUABLE  
BOOKS,

CONSISTING OF

Near 600 Volumes, in most Faculties  
and Sciences, *viz.*

DIVINITY, HISTORY, LAW, MATHEMATICS,  
PHILOSOPHY, PHYSIC, POETRY, &c.

Which will begin  
TO BE SOLD for Ready Money only, by BENJ.  
FRANKLIN, at the *Post-Office in Philadelphia*,  
on Wednesday, the 11th. of *April 1744*. at Nine  
a Clock in the Morning: And, for Dispatch, the  
lowest Price is mark'd in each Book.

The Sale to continue Three Weeks, and no longer;  
and what then remains will be sold at an advanced  
Price.

Those Persons that live remote, by sending their  
Orders and Money to said B. FRANKLIN, may  
depend on the same Justice as if present.

Announcing a sale of books.  
all in the possession of the Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia.  
Size 27" x 5".

A  
LETTER

FROM

THE REVEREND

Mr. *George Whitefield,*

TO

THE REVEREND

Mr. *John Wesley,*

IN ANSWER TO HIS

S E R M O N,

ENTITLED,

*FREE GRACE.*

---

GAL. II. 14.

*But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him  
to the face; because he was to be blamed,*

---

P R I N T E D P H I L A :

Printed and Sold by B. FRANKLIN, M,DCC,XLI,

Title page that is interesting because showing a typographical error, from which Benjamin Franklin's work was usually singularly free. Original in Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Public Library. Size  $3\frac{1}{8}$ " x  $5\frac{1}{4}$ ".

advertisement gladdened its short life, appearing in all type at the bottom of the last page in the third and sixth numbers. Since it is the first American magazine advertisement, it is here reproduced:

---

**T**HERE is a FERRY kept over Potomack (by the Subscriber) being the Post Road and much the nighest way from Annapolis to Williamsburg, where all Gentlemen may depend on a ready Passage in a good new Boat with able Hands Richard Brett, Deputy Post-Master at Potomack.

---

another publication venture of Franklin's was announced as the "Philadelphische Zeitung, or Newspaper in High-Dutch, which will continue to be published on Saturdays once a Fortnight, to be deliver'd at Ten a Clock, to Country Subscribers." The editor was Louis Timothee, language master."

Although Franklin relates in the "Autobiography" his early business ventures in considerable detail, he makes no mention of either the "General Magazine" or the "Philadelphische Zeitung."

Though the bulk of the issues of Franklin's papers are of little moment," says Paul Leicester Ford, "there can be no doubt that as a whole they contain more of genuine merit than those of any other of the same or previous periods in the colonies, the amount of doctrinal and polemical theology being a minimum, and bearing a less portion to the whole mass that can be found

A  
COLLECTION  
OF ALL THE  
LAWS  
Of the PROVINCE of  
PENNSYLVANIA:  
NOW IN FORCE.

*Published by Order of ASSEMBLY*



PHILADELPHIA:  
Printed and Sold by B. FRANKLIN.  
M,DCC,XLII.

Franklin excelled in title pages, of which this is a fine example. Original in the Typographic Library and Museum of the American Type Founders Company, Jersey City, N. J. Size 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

# THE YEARLY VERSES

Of the Printer's Lad,  
who carrieth a-  
bout the *Pennsyl-  
vania GAZETTE*,  
to the Customers  
thereof.



Jan. 1. 1741.

MY Labour's done for one unreckon'd Year,  
And to account, kind S I R, I now appear.  
'Twould give Offence, could I the News rehearse,  
T' attempt it all, here, in my scanty Verse ;  
But if th' important Parts are nam'd again  
That strike the Passions and inspire the Pen,  
Tho' Grief, and Joy, and Anger, those may raise,  
And some deserve Reproach, and others Praise ;  
Such Parts, by Custom due, ye will expect ;  
And such will make the noble Mind reflect.  
*See Russia's single Danger and her Power :*

Heading of "The Yearly Verses of the Printer's Lad."  
Original in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.  
Size 3" x 11 1/8".

in the books of contemporary American printers. In the earliest years of the venture he took the risk of printing two little volumes of American poetry, as well as reprinting other verses of European origin. In 1741 he published the earliest American medical treatise, Colden's 'Essay on the Iliac Passion,' and four years later the second Cadwalader's 'Essay on the West India Dry Gripes.' From his press came the first two pamphlets against slavery. In 1744 he reprinted Richardson's 'Pamela,' the first novel printed in America. Despite his personal disregard of the classics, he printed as early as 1735, James Logan's 'Translation of Cato's 'Moral Distichs,' the first Latin work to be both translated and printed in America."

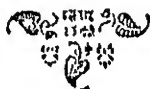
Franklin's printing and bookmaking were of a higher grade than those of his contemporaries. His type arrangements, particularly of title pages, demonstrate skill, and his presswork as a rule, although it does not measure up to modern standards, is good. The book he regarded as his mechanical masterpiece was the "Cato Major."

A feature of his work which impresses one is its freedom from typographical errors, although they did occasionally occur. One is to be noted in the title page shown on page 80 and the date lines of the issues of the "Pennsylvania Gazette" occasionally were not changed from the issues of the previous week. However, he was able to turn even

M. T. CICERO'S  
*CATO MAJOR*,  
OR HIS  
DISCOURSE  
OF  
OLD-AGE:

With Explanatory NOTES.

---



---

PHILADELPHIA:  
Printed and Sold by B. FRANKLIN,  
MDCCXLIV.

Title page of the book Franklin is said to have regarded as the best specimen of his book printing. Original in the possession of the Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia. Size  $3\frac{1}{8}$ " x  $6\frac{3}{4}$ ".



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<b>I</b> Dea Mater	Page 99	<i>Reverend Father</i>	Page 37
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Mother of the Gods	95	Stethochorus	45 46
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<b>R</b> Egulus M. Atil.	139	<b>X</b> Antheppus	140
Raimus n. l. de fove their		Xenophon's Symposium	98
Country, exposed themselves to			
a certain Death	146 147	<b>Z</b> Eds	48 55

**T I I D**

THE CATO MAJOR

THE  
C A T O M A J O R  
OF M. Tullius Cicero,  
OR  
His DISCOURSE OF  
O L D - A G E,  
ADDRESSED TO  
(1) TITUS POMONIUS ATTICUS.

C H A P. I.

MY, Titus, if some sovereign  
Balm I find  
To sooth your Cares, and calm  
your ruffled Mind,  
Shan't I deserve a Fee?  
A For

N O T E S.

(1) Titus Pomponius Atticus, to whom this Discourse is address'd, was of an ancient Family of Rome, of the Equestrian Order, the second in Dignity amongst the Romans. Of all Cicero's Friends He appears to have been

First reading page of "The Cato Major."

found so, in his Understanding. I am now on the seventh Book of my *Origines*, (59) wherein I am collecting all the Monuments of Antiquity of every kind. I am also making out those Orationes, that I formerly delivered in pleading the several Causes I defended. I am further treating of the Civil Law, and of that of the Augurs and Pontiffs. I read much Greek, and, agreeable to the Pythagorean Precept, the better to exercise my Memory, I recollect at Night what I have heard, said or done in the Day. These are the Methods I pursue to keep my Mind employed; and while with a constant and assiduous Application I continue these Exercises, I cannot say I am sensible of any Want of Strength. I am still able to serve my Friends; I come duly to the Senate, and there propose such Matters of Weight, as I have

(59) *Cato's Origines* was a Work much esteemed by the Romans, but is lost to us. *C. Nepos* informs us, that its first Book contained the Actions of the People of *Rome*, (probably to the Time of the first Punic or Carthaginian War) the 2d and 3d gave the Origin or first Rise of all the Cities of *Italy*; the 4th was the History of the first Punic War; the 5th gave the second, which was in his own Time; in the following he related the other

have long pondered and digested; and I support what I propose with Arguments, to which bodily Strength can contribute nothing. And if for want of a competent Share of that Strength, I should be rendered incapable of all this; yet I could please myself, even on my Couch, with running them over in my Thoughts. And whoever will pursue the same Methods, and practise thus, will scarce be sensible of the Advantages of Old-Age, but gradually sliding on, and insensibly decaying, without any sudden Changes, will at last drop like ripe Fruit, or go off like an expiring Light.

## C H A P. XII

THE third Charge against Old-Age was, That it is (they say) insensible to Pleasure, and the Enjoyments arising from the Gratifications of the Senses. And a most blessed and heavenly Effect it truly is, if it eases of what in Youth was the sorest

other Wars, till the Conquest of *Eustania*, now *Portugal* which I judge to have been the Conquest mention'd by *Livy*, lib. 41. c. 11. for which *L. Posthumus* triumphed more 20 Years before this Discomse; for I find *Sergius Galba*, whom *Nepos* names, no-where mention'd in relation to these Wars.

errors into matters of general interest, as will be noted by the following statement from Poor Richard:

“In my last, a few faults escap'd; some belong to the Author, but most to the Printer: Let each take his share of the Blame, confess and amend for the future. . . . Printers indeed should be very careful how they omit a Figure or Letter; For by such Means Sometimes a terrible Alteration is Made in the Sense. I have heard, that once, in a new edition of the ‘Common Prayer,’ the following Sentence, ‘We shall all be chang’d in a Moment, in the Twinkling of an Eye,’ by the Omission of a single Letter, became, ‘We shall all be hang’d in a Moment, &c,’ to the no small Surprize of the first Congregation it was read to.”

In connection with the publishing enterprise was conducted a stationery store, as may be noted from the following advertisement from the “Gazette”:

---

**J**UST import'd from London and to be sold by B. Franklin, at the Post Office, near the Market in Philadelphia.

All sorts of fine Paper, Parchment, Ink-powder, Sealing Wax, Wafers, fountain Pens, Ink and Sand Glasses with Brass Heads, Pounce, and Pounce Boxes, Curious, large Ivory Books and Common ditto, large and small slates, Gunter's Scales, Dividers, Protactors, Pocket Compasses, both large and small, fine Pewter Stands proper for Offices and Counting Houses, fine Mezzotinto and grav'd Pictures of Mr. Whitefield.

Where may be had great Variety of Bibles, Testaments, Pfalters, Spelling Books, Primers, Hornbooks, and other sorts of stationery ware.

---

1733  
 July. For printing 200 Speeches, &c. by Penn 2. 2. 6  
 For printing 500 Blocks at 2 p. --- An. 3. 4  
 For Advertisements twice in Gazette } 10. ---  
 The above all paid to Thomas Penn by Franklin  
 The Speeches & Advertisements, are on the  
 Proprietors and Editors account of 1733  
 2. 10. 6

1 for printing rendered to Thomas Penn by Franklin, receipted by Mrs. Franklin.  
 Original in the possession of the Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia

1733	For printing 200 Speeches, &c. by Penn	2. 2. 6
July 1733	For printing 500 Blocks at 2 p. ---	An. 3. 4
	For Advertisements twice in Gazette	10. ---
	The above all paid to Thomas Penn by Franklin	
	The Speeches & Advertisements, are on the	
	Proprietors and Editors account of 1733	2. 10. 6
1734	For printing 200 Speeches, &c. by Penn	2. 2. 6
July 1734	For printing 500 Blocks at 2 p. ---	An. 3. 4
	For Advertisements twice in Gazette	10. ---
	The above all paid to Thomas Penn by Franklin	
	The Speeches & Advertisements, are on the	
	Proprietors and Editors account of 1734	2. 10. 6
1735	For printing 200 Speeches, &c. by Penn	2. 2. 6
July 1735	For printing 500 Blocks at 2 p. ---	An. 3. 4
	For Advertisements twice in Gazette	10. ---
	The above all paid to Thomas Penn by Franklin	
	The Speeches & Advertisements, are on the	
	Proprietors and Editors account of 1735	2. 10. 6
1736	For printing 200 Speeches, &c. by Penn	2. 2. 6
July 1736	For printing 500 Blocks at 2 p. ---	An. 3. 4
	For Advertisements twice in Gazette	10. ---
	The above all paid to Thomas Penn by Franklin	
	The Speeches & Advertisements, are on the	
	Proprietors and Editors account of 1736	2. 10. 6
1737	For printing 200 Speeches, &c. by Penn	2. 2. 6
July 1737	For printing 500 Blocks at 2 p. ---	An. 3. 4
	For Advertisements twice in Gazette	10. ---
	The above all paid to Thomas Penn by Franklin	
	The Speeches & Advertisements, are on the	
	Proprietors and Editors account of 1737	2. 10. 6

Bill for printing rendered to the Library Company by  
 Franklin. Original in the possession of the American  
 Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.



QUANTITY AND VALUATION OF THE PRINTING OFFICE, AS TAKEN JAN. 27, 1766,  
BY J. PARKER

108.	Old Brevier, much worn, and worth little more than old metal, @ 8d. per lb.	1.	12	15	4
382	Newer Brevier, 7 years worn, valued @ 1/4 per lb.		17	12	6
661	Burgois, eight years worn, @ 1/2		11	8	9
416	Long Primer, well worn @ 1/6		25	8	8
318	Small Pica, almost worn out @ 10d		11	5	0
421	Pica, Old, and much batter'd @ 10d		17	10	10
114	Old English, fit for little more than old metal @ 8 1/2		11	10	7
502	Newer English, nearly half worn, @ 1/4		11	7	6
227	Great Primer, well worn @ 1/2		11	0	2
158	Double Pica, pretty good, @ 1/4		10	10	8
97	Double English Do @ 1/2		5	6	2
70	Flowers @ 2		7	0	0
51	Figures, Planets, Space Rules, Black Letter, @ 1/2		5	10	1
61	Large and Title Letter, some old, some good, @ 1		1	1	0
40	Quotations, Italics, &c, @ 1		1	0	0
3	Cracked Letter, @ 1		0	1	0
85	Cases, some, old and shatter'd @ 1/2		21	5	5
11	Frames @ 8		5	1	0
15	Chairs, some large, some small, @ 6		4	10	0
16	Letter Boards, only 10 of 'em good for any thing		0	15	0
3	Polio Gallies, 8 Quarto, and 7 small Do.		1	10	0
1	Letter Rack and one Case Rack		1	0	0
1	Lye-Trough, 1 Lye Tub, and one Writing Trough		1	10	0
6	Composing Sticks, one of which good for nothing		1	10	0
2	Imposing Stones, with their Stands		1	10	0
1	Old Book-Press much thatter'd		1	0	0
16	Poles for drying Paper		0	16	0
2	Mallets, 2 Shutting Sticks, a Planer, and some old Furniture		1	0	0
12	Cuts for Dilworth's Spelling Books		1	0	0
2	King's Arms, 1 3/4 for Bill of Lading, 1 on 1 Head &c Tail Piece		1	0	0
	The Cuts for 9 advertisements much worn		1	0	0
	Some Brass pieces of Rules, and other Rules		0	12	7
			268	10	0
	Three Printing Presses, one much shatter'd		45	0	0
			L. 313	10	0

Errors excepted  
Per JAMES PARKER

Parker's inventory set in type.



<sup>6</sup><sub>26</sub> The foregoing advertisement, which was published in 1742, is notable because it contains the earliest known reference to fountain pens. They were not of course made as are those of the present, the process of galvanizing rubber not having been discovered until nearly a century later.

Contrasting strangely, according to the modern viewpoint, with the last paragraph of the foregoing advertisement is the following:

---

**T**WO likely young Negroes, one a lad about 19; The other a Girl of 15, to be fold.  
Inquire of the Printer.

---

These advertisements appeared frequently, evidently according to the space at the publisher's disposal, as did the following three, which evidence the wide range of his operations:

---

**V**ERY GOOD SACK at 6s. per Gallon.  
Inquire of the Printer hereof.

---

**V**ERY good coffee fold by the Printer  
hereof.

---

**R**EADY Money for old Rags may be had  
of the Printer hereof; by whom is made &  
Sold very good Lampblack.

---

## C H A P. X.

*The Pennsylvania Gazette.*

WHEN Franklin established himself as a printer there was but one newspaper in Philadelphia, the "American Weekly Mercury," founded by Andrew Bradford in 1719 and issued continuously by him thereafter. Franklin said of it in the "Autobiography": "The then only newspaper . . . was a paltry thing, wretchedly managed, no way entertaining, and yet was profitable. I therefore freely thought a good paper would scarcely fail of good encouragement."

On two occasions Franklin found himself the victim of misplaced confidence, each time in connection with a publishing venture and each time through betrayal by a man who pronounced his name Webb. The first instance is given in the previous chapter. The second relates to this second newspaper which he proposed to establish.

On a certain day in 1728 there appeared in his office one George Webb, a journeyman printer from England, who had been bound to Keimer but who had purchased the remainder of his time from his master and employer. To him Franklin confided his plan and Webb immediately went to Keimer with the information. Keimer "clutched at the idea," hurriedly made arrangements to forestall his rival in issuing a new news-



soon after, on December 24, 1728, there was first number of Keimer's "The Universal Instructor in all Arts and Sciences, and a Gazette."

Subscription price was ten shillings a year. Announcements were inserted at three shillings a line. The feature was to be the publication of "The Universal Dictionary of the Arts and Sciences" which had just appeared in London, and which, by purchase of copyright, afforded a simple and profitable filling the pages of the new paper. In the first number were two columns of the dictionary, two columns of the proceedings of the Legislature of New Jersey, and two columns of general news. In the second number, Keimer, in his reply, two columns of general news, two columns of general news, and three advertisements, were Keimer's own.

"The Universal Instructor" was an improvement, though not very much of an improvement, on the old "Weekly Mercury." Franklin, for what he considered the duplicity of Keimer, immediately devoted his efforts to improving the "Mercury." He contrived a series of papers signed "Buffy-Body," in which he himself and his friends of the Junto, by their attacks, created quite a stir in the Colonies and secured favorable notice and support to the "Mercury."

In spite of that fact, however, the "Universal Instructor" succeeded in struggling along to the number of the "Universal Instructor"

without interruption. Then came a delay in publication which was explained by him as follows:

“It certainly must be allow’d somewhat strange that a Person of strict Sincerity, refin’d Justice, and universal Love to the whole Creation, should for a Series of near twenty Years, be the constant But of Slander, as to be three Times ruin’d as a Master-Printer, to be Nine Times in Prison, one of which was Six Years together. . . . Fame, that common Strumpet, who long has been my avowed Enemy, to my Loss (as I may truly say, of several Thousand Pounds), has so far debauch’d my Enemies, that by their late Attacks I was awak’d when fast asleep in Bed, about Eleven at Night, over-ti’d with the Labour of the Day, and taken away from my Dwelling, by a Writ and Summons, it being basely and confidently given out, that I was that very Night about to run away, tho’ there was not the least Colour or Ground for such a vile Report.”

Keimer made an arrangement with his creditors that enabled “The Universal Instructor” to reach the thirty-ninth number, when it succumbed, and whatever good will it possessed was sold for a trifling sum to Franklin and Meredith.

Franklin shortened Keimer’s absurd title to the concluding three words, “The Pennsylvania Gazette” and occupied most of the front page of his first number, dated Thursday, September 25, to

T H E

# Pennsylvania GAZETTE.

*Containing the freshest Advices Foreign and Domestic.*

From Thursday, September 25. to Thursday, October 2. 1779.

**T**HE Pennsylvania Gazette being now to be carry'd on by other Hands, the Reader may expect some Account of the Method we design to proceed in.

Upon a View of Chambers's great Dictionaries, from whence were taken the Materials of the Universal Instructor in all Arts and Sciences, which usually made the first Part of this Paper, we find that besides their containing many Things address'd or insignificant to us, it will probably be fifty Years before the Whole can be gone thro' in this Manner of Publication. There are likewise in these Books continual References from Things under one Letter of the Alphabet to those under another, which relate to the same Subject, and are necessary to explain and complete it; these taken in their Turn may perhaps be Ten Years distant, and since it is likely that they who desire to acquaint themselves with any particular Art or Science, would gladly have the whole before them in a much less Time, we believe our Readers will not think such a Method of communicating Knowledge to be a proper One.

However, tho' we do not intend to continue the Publication of these Dictionaries in a regular Alphabetical Method, as has hitherto been done; yet as several Things exhibit'd from them in the Course of these Papers, have been entertaining to such of the Curious, who never had and cannot have the Advantage of good Libraries; and as there are many Things still behind, which being in this Manner made generally known, may perhaps become of considerable Use, by giving such Hints to the excellent natural Genius's of our Country, as may contribute either to the Improvement of our present Manufactures, or towards the Invention of new Ones; we propose from Time to Time to communicate such particular Parts as appear to be of the most general Consequence.

As to the Religious Courtship, Part of which has been retail'd to the Publick in these Papers, the Reader may be inform'd, that the whole Book will probably in a little Time be printed and bound up by itself; and those who apply to it, will doubtless be better plac'd to have it entire, than in this broken interrupted Manner.

There are many who have long desired to see a good News-Paper in Pennsylvania; and we hope those Gentlemen who are able, will contribute towards the making this such. We ask Assistance, because we are fully sensible, that to publish a good News-Paper is not so easy an Undertaking as many People imagine it to be. The Author of a Gazette (in the Opinion of the Learned) ought to be conversant with an extensive Acquaintance with Languages, a great Facility and Command of Writing and Relating Things cleanly and intelligibly, and in few Words; he should be able to speak of War both by Land and Sea; be well acquainted with Geography, with the History of the Time, with the several Interests of France, and States, the Secrets of Courts, and the Manners and Customs of all Nations. Men that accomplish'd are very rare in this remote Part of the World; and it would be well if the Writer of these Papers could make up among his Friends what is wanting in himself.

Upon the Whole, we may assure the Publick, that as far as the Encouragement we meet with will enable us, no Care and Pains shall be omitted, that may make the Pennsylvania Gazette an agreeable and useful an Entertainment as the Nature of the Thing will allow.

The Following is the last Message sent by his Excellency Governor *Burr*, to the House of Representatives in English.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

It is not with so vain a Hope as to convince you, that I take this Trouble to answer your Message, but, if possible, to open the Eyes of the deluded People whom you represent, so I whom you see it to my Point to keep in Ignorance of the true Sense of this Address. I need not go further for an undeniable Proof of this Intention to blind them, than your ordering the Printer of Mifflin's *Address* at the 20th of June tell to your Speaker to be published. This I enter a Vindictive Paper of your Vindictive to make a Copy of the Report of the Council of the Congress of the United States, with the *Address* to the People, and Order it to be printed. Yet these Gentlemen had at the same time the unparalleled Presumption to write to the Speaker in this Manner: *It is shown by the Evidence, which is produced to the Congress, that you are guilty with the People of a Conspiracy to make them to be*

First page of first number of the "Gazette" published by Franklin.  
Original in the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Public Library.  
Size 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Thursday, October 2, 1729, with an announcement to its subscribers, the number being ninety. Two weeks later appeared another announcement, in part as follows:

"The Publifhers of this Paper meeting with considerable Encouragement, are determined to continue it. . . . From this time forward, instead of publishing a Whole Sheet once a week, as the first undertaker engag'd to do in his Proposals, we shall publish a Half Sheet twice a Week, which amounts to the same Thing."

Less than two months later, the weekly issues of four pages were resumed, and a larger size of type, corresponding to modern twelve point, as contrasted with the eight point previously used, was adopted. Later, various sizes of types were employed and the issues were dated to cover periods of differing length, occasionally as many as twelve days. In the issue for December 2, 1731, one of the four pages was blank.

Keimer during his proprietorship of the "Gazette" occasionally but not often published enough advertisements to fill a page. Franklin increased the advertising patronage and within a year after he took over the paper some of its issues contained paid announcements occupying nearly two of the four pages.

The type page of "The Universal Instructor" measured  $6\frac{7}{8}$  x  $10\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Franklin changed the

size to  $6\frac{3}{8}$  x  $10\frac{7}{8}$  inches for all but the fourth page, which was slightly longer. From October 4, 1739, to January 27, 1743, inclusive, the size was reduced, without explanation, to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  x 9 inches. Then it was increased to  $7\frac{1}{4}$  x 11 inches, a size larger than the first, with three instead of two columns to the page. There were occasional "postscripts" of a single leaf, which after 1744 were called "supplements."

Editorially the "Gazette" was of uncommon brightness. Its pages were illuminated with the quiet humor to be found in all of Franklin's writings, although with regret it must be noted that occasionally the humor was characterized by a grossness that can be excused only on the ground that it was characteristic of the times. His contributions took the form of letters addressed to himself as "The Printer of the Gazette," usually published in one number and answered in a later number. When the "Gazette" paid its respects to its contemporary, the jibes were commonly veiled in an indirection that made their hits all the more telling, as witness this one, supposed to be a letter from a reader:

"To the Printer of the 'Gazette':

"As you sometimes take upon you to correct the Publick, you ought in your Turn patiently to receive publick Correction. My Quarrel against you is, your Practice of Publishing under the Notion of



News, old Transactions which I hope we have forgot."

And the writer, who signed himself "Memory," gave instances of "news" four years or more old published in Nos. 669 and 670 of the paper.

Franklin replied:

"I need not say more in Vindication of myself in this Charge, than that the Letter is evidently wrong direct'd, and should have been to the publisher of the 'Mercury': Inasmuch as the Number of my Paper is not yet amounted to 669, nor are those old articles anywhere to be found in the 'Gazette,' but in the 'Mercury' of the last two weeks."

Although fond of taking a thrust at the opposition and permitting itself to be the vehicle of occasional coarsenesses, the "Gazette" was free from scandal. Franklin justly made this claim for it in a letter with which he preceded the reprinting of an article on "Libel" from the London "Spectator," as follows:

"Mr. Franklin:

"Tho' your Newf-paper is sometimes as empty as those of others, yet I think you have for the most part (tho' you were once in one particular a sad Offender) had the modesty to keep it pretty clear of *Scandal*, a subject that others delight to wallow in."

Franklin had definite opinions on the printing of scandal and libel. In the "Autobiography" he says:

"In the conduct of my newspaper, I carefully excluded all libelling and personal Abuse, which is of late Years become so disgraceful to our Country. Whenever I was solicit'd to insert any thing of that kind, and the Writers plead'd, as they generally did, the Liberty of the press, and that a Newspaper was like a Stagecoach, in which any one who would pay had a right to a Place, my Answer was, that I would print the piece separately if desir'd, and the Author might have as many Copies as he pleas'd to distribute himself, but that I would not take upon me to spread his detraction; and that, having contract'd with my Subscribers to furnish them with what might be either useful or entertaining, I could not fill their Papers with private Altercation, in which they had no Concern, without doing them manifest Injustice."

Near the close of his career he wrote an essay entitled "The Count of the Press." It "could receive and promulgate Accusations of all kinds"; it was "in favor of about one Citizen in five hundred" and was not to be "governed by any of the Rules of common Courts of Law." One paragraph reads:

"My Proposal then is to leave the Liberty of the Press untouch'd, to be exercis'd in its full Extent, Force, and Vigor; but to permit the Liberty of the Cudgel to go with it *pari passu*. Thus, my fellow-citizens, if an impudent Writer attacks your Reputation, dearer to you perhaps than your life, and puts his Name to the Charge, you may go to him as openly and break his Head. If he conceals himself behind the Printer,

Showing style and arrangement of the advertisements in the "Pennsylvania Gazette," 1734. Original in the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Public Library.

*Just arrived from LONDON,*

For the ENTERTAINMENT of the CURIOUS and OTIUSES,  
And is now to BE SEEN, by Six or more, in a large commodious  
Room, at the House of Mr. *Vidal*, in Second-Street;

*The Solar or Camera Obscura MICROSCOPE,*  
INVENTED by the Ingenious Dr. *LIEBERKIHN*.

*By which the Spectator may see the Sun, Moon, Planets, Stars, and the whole Firmament, as they appear to the naked Eye, but magnified a hundred times, and the Sun, Moon, and Planets, as they appear to the Telescope, but magnified a thousand times.*

*By which the Spectator may see the Sun, Moon, Planets, Stars, and the whole Firmament, as they appear to the naked Eye, but magnified a hundred times, and the Sun, Moon, and Planets, as they appear to the Telescope, but magnified a thousand times.*

*Note, The Microscope only to be seen at Gentlemen's Houses, giving half an Hour's Notice, the Spectator only from Ten in the Morning to Four in the Afternoon, in my Room.*

*By which the Spectator may see the Sun, Moon, Planets, Stars, and the whole Firmament, as they appear to the naked Eye, but magnified a hundred times, and the Sun, Moon, and Planets, as they appear to the Telescope, but magnified a thousand times.*

This beautiful Curiosity has been shewn twice before the KING, in his Royal Palace at St. James's, where His Majesty was pleas'd to make an Observation on the Excellence of its Beauty, and declar'd, He thought it the Wonder of his Age. It is allow'd by all who have seen it, to be more worthy to adorn a King's Palace than of being expos'd for a common Sight.

*M. D.* This surprising Piece of Machinery has given such general Satisfaction to the Lovers of Art and Ingenuity, that the Nobility are continually commanding it to their Seats to satisfy their Curiosity, and it to be SOLD by the Owner *ROBERTO RITINO*.

The Inside of this Machine may be view'd by Gentlemen and Ladies, and it to be seen from Eight in the Morning till Eight at Night.

*For the Evening Diversion,*  
By which the Spectator may see the Sun, Moon, Planets, Stars, and the whole Firmament, as they appear to the naked Eye, but magnified a hundred times, and the Sun, Moon, and Planets, as they appear to the Telescope, but magnified a thousand times.

First SEAT Two Shillings, Second Third One Shilling. To begin at Seven a Clock.

Broadside advertising the wonderful new microscope. Bound in the volume of the "Pennsylvania Gazette" for 1744 in the Ridgway Branch of the Philadelphia Public Library.

and you can nevertheless discover who he is, you may in like Manner way-lay him in the night, attack him behind, and give him a good drubbing. Thus far goes my Project as to private Resentment and Retribution. But if the publick should ever happen to be affront'd, as it ought to be, with the conduct of such Writers, I would not advise proceeding immediately to these Extremities, but that we should in Moderation content ourselves with tarring and feathering, and tossing them in a Blanket."

Some of the news items afford a striking contrast to those of the present day, as witness this one from the issue of February 29, 1732, which, while more than commonly startling, is not entirely unrepresentative.

"From the South-Carolina Gazette":

"One Day last week, Mr. Charles Jones, pursuing a Runaway Negro who had robb'd him; he came up with the Negro, who resisted and fought him; and he struck the Lock of his Mullet into the Negro's Scull, and kill'd him. He went and told a Justice what he had done, who order'd him to cut his Head off, fix it on a Pole, and set it up in a Cross-Road; which was done accordingly near Ashley Ferry."

The advertisements in the "Gazette" related to runaway servants, horses strayed or stolen, real estate, "very good live-geese feathers," &c. for sale. In the issue of the "Gazette" of May 30, 1734, appeared the first advertising cut, not, however, the first used in colonial newspapers, the "Mercury" having used them for some months previously.

Many of the advertisements have a curious sound as viewed by modern standards:

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**S**IX or Seven Months ago, was lent by David Evans, a barbicuing Iron, which he desires may be return'd, he having forgot to whom he lent it.

---

**A**LL persons who are indebted to Henry Flower late Postmaster of Pennsylvania, for Postage of Letters or otherwise, are desir'd to pay the same to him at the old Coffee-House in Philadelphia.

---

**B**ETWEEN the second and third Sundays in June past, there was stolen three Bibles out of the Baptist Meeting-House. . . . Whoever gives Notice of the said Bibles, and secures them so that they may be had again, shall have Fifteen Shillings Reward.

---

To BE SOLD

**A** LIKELY young breeding Negro Woman fit for Town or Country Buiness, has had the Small Pox; as also a Mill for grinding Malt, and a screen for cleaning of Malt or any other grain; inquire of John Danby in Third Street, and Know the Price; they will be sold very reasonabale for ready Money.

---

Counterfeiting seems not to have been a difficult art two hundred years ago if we are to judge by the following advertisement of the government of the Province of New Jersey:

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"Burlington, June 19, 1734.

**T**HIS is to give Publick Notice, that some fraudulent Jerfey Bills have been lately

utter'd at Burlington, and to caution all Persons that they may not be impos'd upon by them. They may be plainly distinguish'd from the true ones by these Marks; viz. The Coat of Arms, and the first Word, This, are stamped with red Ink, whereas in the true Bills they are done with black Ink: The Frauds are much foil'd and pasted on the Back and the Signers Names suppos'd to be artfully taken from some small Bill, and past'd to the Fraud: and several other small Patches artfully past'd, to make them look like the true ones.

---

The following advertisement has a flavor that is almost modern:

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**D**R. BATEMAN'S Pectoral Drops, which are given with such great Success, in all Fluxes, Spitting of Blood, Consumption, Small-Pox, Measles, Colds, Coughs, and Pains in the Limbs or Joints; they cure Agues, and the most violent Fever in the World, if taken in Time, and give present Ease in the most racking Torment of the Gout; the same in all sorts of Cholicks; they cure the Rheumatism, and what is wonderful in all sorts of Pains (be they ever so violent) they give Ease in a few minutes after taken; they ease After Pains, prevent Miscarriages, and are wonderful in the Stone and Gravel in the Kidneys, Bladders and Ureters; bringing away Slime, Gravel, and oftentimes Stones of a great bigness, and are the best of Medicines for all Stoppages or Pains in the Stomach, Shortness of Breath, and Strainess of the Breast, re-quickning the almost extinguish'd natural Heat in diseas'd Bodies, by which Means they restore the languishing to perfect Health. Their manner of working is by moderate Sweat and Urine. For Children's Distempers no medicine yet discovered can compare with it: For it cures the Gripes in their Stomach

Bowels. It cures weak and forward Children to take their natural Rest. It is taken with great Success in the Rickets, and in a Word, hath restored Hundreds of poor Infants to Strength and liveliness that have been reduced to mere skeletons. Sold by Miles Strickland in Market-Street, Philadelphia, price 4s. a Bottle with Directions.

---

When Franklin became a publisher it was not for newspapers to be sent through the post free, but the postmaster had the option of granting the privilege to such as he chose, and he denied it to all but his own. The newspapers in Boston and Philadelphia were carried by the postmasters. This was an inconvenience to other publishers and was keenly felt by Franklin in his efforts to extend the circulation of the paper. His only feasible way to secure wider distribution was to bribe the post-riders to carry his newspapers in addition to the post-mail. When he was appointed postmaster he gave the mails to all newspapers on terms he prescribed for himself. When he was Deputy Postmaster General for the Colonies in 1758, he withdrew the privilege of free carriage and established a charge of nine pence for each fifty miles of carriage. He directed the postmaster to advertise unclaimed



*Poor Richard's Almanack.*

ALTHOUGH the encyclopedias are authority for the statement that William Bradford in 1685 issued the first American almanac, the fact is that Stephen Daye printed an almanac in Cambridge almost fifty years before. One of the first issues from Daye's press was an almanac printed in 1639 for that year, which began with March and not with January. Almanacs were also issued by other Cambridge printers prior to Bradford's.

William Bradford issued the first almanac published in Philadelphia and it was also the first product of his press. Its title was "Kalendarium Pennsilvaniense, or, America's Messinger. Being an Almanack For the Year of Grace, 1686."

Hildeburn says: "It consists of twenty unpagged leaves. The reverse of the title which, in the copy at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, measures 6 by  $3\frac{7}{8}$  inches, the type occupying  $5\frac{7}{8}$  by  $2\frac{7}{8}$  inches, and half of the succeeding page is filled by Atkins' address 'To the Reader,' which is followed by Bradford's: 'The Printer to the Readers.' The latter was as follows:

"Hereby understand that after great Charge and Trouble I have brought that great Art and Mystery of Printing into this part of America believing it may be of great service to you in several respects,

*Kalendarium Pennsylvaniense,*  
OR,  
America's *Messinger.*  
BEING AN  
**ALMANACK**  
For the Year of Grace, 1686.

Wherein is contained both the English & Foreign Account, the Motions of the Planets through the Signs, with the Luminaries, Conjunctions, Aspects, Eclipses; the rising, setting, and setting of the Moon, with the time when she passeth by, or is with the most eminent fixed Stars, Sun rising and setting, and the time of High-Water at the City of Philadelphia, &c.

With Chronologies, and many other Notes, Rules, and Tables, very fitting for every man to know & have; all which is accommodated to the Longitude of the Province of Pennsylvania, and Latitude of 40 Degr. north, with a Table of Houses for the time, which may indifferently serve New-England, New-York, East & West Jersey, Maryland, and most parts of Virginia.

---

By *SAMUEL ATKINS*  
Student in the Mathematicks and Astrology.

---

*And the Stars in their Courses fought against Sclera, Indg. 5. 19.*

---

Printed and Sold by *William Bradford*, sold also by  
the Author and *J. Murrey* in *Philadelphia*, and  
*Phillip Richards* in *New-York*; 1685.

First issue of Bradford's Almanac  
Original in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.  
Size 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ ".

hoping to find Encouragement, not only in this Almanack, but what else I shall enter upon for the use and service of the Inhabitants of these Parts. Some irregularities, there be in this Diary, which I desire you to pass by this year; for being lately come hither, my Materials were Misplaced, and out of order, whereupon I was forced to use Figures & Letters of various sizes, but understanding the want of something of this nature, and being importuned thereto, I ventured to make publick this, desiring you to accept thereof, and by the next, (as I find encouragement) shall endeavour to have things compleat. And for the ease of Clerks, Scriviners, &c. I propose to print Blank Bills, Bonds, Letters of Attourney, Indentures, Warrants, &c. and what else presents itself, wherein I shall be ready to serve you, and remain your Friend.

Philadelphia, the 28th  
10th Month, 1685

W. BRADFORD.

When Benjamin Franklin in 1732 decided to issue an almanac for the succeeding year, the business of almanac making was in a thriving state. Says John Bach McMaster in "Benjamin Franklin as a Man of Letters":

"The almanac was the one piece of literature of which the sale was sure. Not a household for a hundred miles around the printer, but if there was sixpence to spare, would have a copy. In remote towns, where money was not to be had, a dozen copies would be bought with potatoes or wheat, and disposed of one by one at the blacksmith's for a

few nails; at the tavern for rum; at some neighbor's in payment of a trilling debt. Chapmen carried them in their packs to exchange with copper kettles and china bowls, for woisted stockings and knit gloves. They were the diaries, the journals, the account books of the poor. Strung upon a stick and hung beside the chimney-place, they formed an unbroken record of domestic affairs, in many instances for thirty years. On the margins of one since picked up at a paper mill are recorded the interesting cases of a physician's practice, and the names of those who suffered with the smallpox and the flux. Another has become a complete journal of farm life. A third is filled with verses written in imitation of Pope and Young."

Although late in 1732 there were in Philadelphia alone seven established almanacs, the fact did not deter young Franklin from entering the field. The cost of securing the copy for almanacs from the philomaths was between twenty to thirty pounds each year, which, in view of the fact that the salary of the attorney-general was only sixty pounds, was high pay. Franklin proposed to save this expense by furnishing his own copy. Since he was to be the publisher he did not wish to be known also as the author and predictor of events, and he therefore borrowed a title which he found in a London almanac entitled "Apollo Anglicanus" (the English Apollo) issued by "Richard Saunders, Student in the Physicall and Mathematic Sciences."

1746.

*Apollo Anglicanus:*

THE

ENGLISH APOLLO:

Assisting

All Persons in the Right Understanding of this YEAR's Revolutions, as also of Things past, present, and to come

A Twofold *Kalendar*, viz. *Julian* or *English*, and *Gregorian* or *Foreign* Computations, never plain and full than any other; with the Rising and Setting of the Sun, the Nightly Rising and Setting of the Moon, and also her Southing, exactly calculated for every Day.

Of General USE for most MEN.

Being the Second after *Bissexile*, or *LEAP-YEAR*.

To which is added, the Moon's Application to the Planets; With the Calculations of the Eclipses; Also Roke and Tables for the Measuring of Timber; With many other Things both pleasant, useful, and necessary.

Calculated according to A R T, and fitted to the Meridian of *Leicester*, whose Latitude is 52 Degrees, 41 Minutes, exactly measuring all the middle Counties of England, and, without sensible Error, the whole Kingdom.

By RICHARD SAUNDERS,

Student in the Physic and Mathematical Sciences

LONDON: Printed by A. WILKIE,  
for the Company of STATIONERS, 1746.

The English almanac issued by the original Richard Saunders, an early number of which Franklin modeled his "Poor Richard's Alman." Original in possession of the author. Size 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

The success of "Poor Richard's Almanack" was immense. The first edition was immediately sold out, as was also a second, and before the end of the year a third was printed. Of the Almanack Franklin says: "I reaped considerable profit from it, vending annually near ten thousand."

Poor Richard, although entirely fictitious, became in the minds of the readers of the almanac a very real person. Franklin, as he says, scoured the literature of the ages, and the wisdom thus secured was served up in the homely words of Poor Richard in a way that proved to be very acceptable to the readers. Not only did the sayings pass into the common speech of the people, but the writings of others of that time and the years immediately succeeding abound in quotations from Poor Richard. Indeed, it is true of the present as of the past that probably no other American writer is so frequently quoted as Benjamin Franklin.

Poor Richard in the first number gives as a reason for the publication of the Almanack: "The plain Truth of the Matter is, I am excessive poor, and my Wife, good Woman, is I tell her, excessive proud; she cannot bear to sit spinning in her Shift of Tow, while I do nothing but gaze at the Stars; and has threaten'd more than once to burn all my Books and Rattling-Traps (as she calls my Instruments) if I do not make some profitable Use of them for the Good of my Family. The Printer has offer'd me

*Poor Richard, 1733.*

A N

# Almanack

For the Year of Christ

1 7 3 3,

Being the First after I EAP YEAR:

<i>And makes since the Creation</i>	Years
By the Account of the E Stern Greeks	7241
By the Latin Church, when Q ent Y	6932
By the Computation of IV IV	7142
By the Roman Chronology	5682
By the Jewish Rabbies	5494

*Wherein is contained*

The Lunations, Eclipses, Judgment of the Weather, Spring Tides, Planets Motions & mutual Aspects, Sun and Moon's Rising and Setting, Length of Days, Time of High Water, Tides, Comets, and observable Days

Fitted to the Latitude of Forty Degrees, and a Meridian of Five Hours West from London, but may without sensible Error, serve all the adjacent Places, even from Newfoundland to South-Carolina.

By RICHARD SAUNDERS, Philom.

PHILADELPHIA:

Printed and sold by B FRANKLIN, at the New Printing Office near the Market

Title page of the first number of "Poor Richard's Almanack."  
Size 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ ".

some considerable share of the Profits, and I have thus begun to comply with my Dame's Desire."

He gives his readers warning that they must not expect too much of solid stuff: "And be not thou disturb'd, O great and sober reader, if, among the many serious sentences in my book, thou findest me trifling now and then, and talking idley. In all the Dishes I have hitherto cooked for thee, there is solid Meat enough for thy Money. There are scraps from the Table of Wisdom, that will, if well digest'd, yield strong Nourishment for the Mind. But squeamish stomachs cannot eat without Pickles; which, it is true, are good for nothing else, but they provoke an Appetite. The vain Youth, that reads my Almanack for the sake of an idle Joke, will, perhaps, meet with a serious Reflection that he may the ever after be the better for."

Poor Richard was entertainingly frank about his personal family affairs. In the second number, in congratulating himself upon the success of the Almanack, he announces that his wife has been able to buy a pot of her own, instead of being obliged to borrow one, and that they have got something to put into it. "She has also got a pair of Shoes, two new Shifts, and a new warm Petticoat; and for my part I have bought a second-hand Coat, so good that I am not now ashamed to go to Town or be seen there. These Things have render'd her tem-



per so much more pacifick than it us'd to be, that I may say I have slept more, and more quietly, within this last year, than in the three foregoing years put together."

In a stanza of doggerel in the first number he takes this fling at Bridget:

She that will eat her Breakfast in her Bed,  
And spend the Morn in dressing of her Head,  
And sit at Dinner like a maiden Bride,  
And talk of Nothing all Day but of Pride;  
God in his Mercy may do much to save her,  
But what a Case is he in that shall have her.

In the next number of the almanac appears the following stanza by "Mrs. Bridget Saunders, My Dutchess, in answer to the print'd Verses of last Year":

He that for the sake of Drink neglects his Trade,  
And spends each Night in Taverns till 'tis late,  
And rises when the Sun is four Hours high,  
And ne'er regards his starving Family,  
God in his Mercy may do much to save him,  
But, Woe to the poor Wife, whose Lot it is to  
have him.

An astronomical prophecy is as follows:

"During the first visible Eclipse Saturn is retrograde; For which reason the Crabs will go sidelong, and the Ropemakers backward. Mercury will have his Share in these affairs, and so confound the

Speech of the People, that when a Pennsylvanian would say Panther he shall say Painter. When a New Yorker thinks to say This he shall say Difs, and the People in New England and Cape May will not be able to say Cow for their Lives, but will be forc'd to say Keow by a certain involuntary Twiss in the Root of their Tongues. No Connecticut Man nor Marylander will be able to open his mouth this year, but Sir shall be the first or last Syllable he pronounces, and sometimes both. Brutes shall speak in many Places, and there will be above seven and twenty irregular Verbs made this year; if Grammar don't interpose. Who can help these misfortunes? This year the Stone-Blind shall see but very little; the Deaf shall hear but poorly; and the Dumb shan't speak very plain; and it's much, if my Dame Bridget talks at all this year. Whole Flocks, Herds, and Drovers of Sheep, Swine and Oxen, Cocks and Hens, Ducks and Drakes, Geese and Ganders shall go to Pot; but the Mortality will not be altogether so great among Cats, Dogs and Horses. As to Old Age 'twill be incurable this Year because of the years past. And towards the Fall some People will be seiz'd with an unaccountable Inclination to roast and eat their own Ears: Should this be call'd Madness, Doctors? I think not. But the worst Disease of all will be a certain most horrid, dreadful, malignant, catching, perverse and odious Malady, almost epidemical, insomuch that many shall run mad upon it; I quake for very fear when I think on't; for I assure you very few will escape this Disease; which is call'd by the learned Albromazar Lacko'mony."

In another number he prophesies:

"Before the middle of this Year, a Wind at N. East will arise, during which the Water of the Sea and Rivers will be in such a manner rais'd, that great part of the Towns of Boston, Newport, New York, Philadelphia, the Lowlands of Maryland and Virginia, and the Town of Charleston in South Carolina, will be under Water. Happy will it be for the Sugar and Salt standing in the Cellars of those Places, if there be tight roofs and ceilings overhead; otherwise, without being a Conjuror, a man may easily foretel that such Commodities will receive Damage."

In the next number appeared the following explanation:

"The Water of the Sea and Rivers is rais'd in Vapors by the Sun, and is form'd into Clouds in the Air, and thence descends in Rains. Now, where there is Rain overhead (which frequently happens when the Wind is at N. E.), the Cities and Places on Earth below are certainly under Water."

Fooling that was most relished by the public related to rival almanac makers. The one among them who was selected to receive the shafts of Poor Richard's wit was Titan Leeds, the philomath responsible for Bradford's "American Almanack." After the paragraph explaining Franklin's reasons for publishing, there followed a prediction of the forthcoming death of Mr. Leeds, a device that was not original with Franklin, but had been

used years before in England by Dean Swift, when he prophesied the death on a certain date of one Partridge, an almanac maker. Partridge survived the date and then exultingly proclaimed the failure of the prophecy, but Swift replied that Partridge was so notorious a liar that his testimony could not be accepted in so important a matter. Franklin was more gentle in his jest at the expense of Titan Leeds. Poor Richard said:

“Indeed this Motive would have had Force enough to have made me publish an Almanack many Years since, had it not been overpower’d by my Regard for my good Friend and Fellow Student Mr. Titan Leeds, whose Interest I was extremely unwilling to hurt: But this Obstacle (I am far from speaking it with Pleasure) is soon to be remov’d since inexorable Death, who was never known to respect Merit, has already prepar’d the mortal Dart, the fatal Sifter has already extend’d her destroying Shears, and that ingenious Man must soon be taken from us. He dies, by my Calculation made at his Request, on October 17, 1733, 3h. 29m. P. M. at the very instant of the  $\nearrow$  of  $\odot$  and  $\&$ . By his own Calculation he will survive till the 26th of the same Month. This small Difference between us we have disput’d whenever we have met these 9 Years past; but at length he is inclinable to agree with my Judgment: Which of us is most exact, a little Time will now determine. As therefore these Provinces may not longer expect to see any of his Performances after this Year, I think my self free to take up the Task, and

request a share of the publick Encouragement; which I am the more apt to hope for on this Account, that the Buyer of my Almanack may consider himself, not only as purchasing an useful Utensil, but as performing an Act of Charity, to his poor Friend and Servant."

Leeds replied indignantly, as Franklin hoped he would, which resulted in further reference to the matter in the second number of "Poor Richard's Almanack" as follows:

"In the Preface to my last Almanack, I foretold the Death of my dear old Friend and Fellow-Student, the learn'd and ingenious Mr. Titan Leeds, which was to be on the 17th of October, 1733, 3h. 29m. P. M. at the very Instant of the  $\oslash$  of  $\odot$  and  $\S$ : By his own Calculation he was to survive till the 26th of the same Month, and expire in the Time of the Eclipse, near 11 o'clock P. M. At which of these Times he died, or whether he be really dead, I cannot at this present Writing positively assure my Readers; forasmuch as a Disorder in my own Family demand'd my Presence, and would not permit me as I had intend'd, to be with him in his last Moments, to receive his last Embrace, to close his Eyes, and do the Duty of a Friend in performing the last Offices of the Depart'd. Therefore it is that I cannot positively affirm whether he be dead or not. . . . There is however (and I cannot speak it without Sorrow) there is the strongest Probability that my dear Friend is no more: for there appears in his Name, as I am assur'd, an Almanack for the Year 1734, in which I

am treat'd in a very gross and unhandfome Manner, in which I am call'd a false Prophet, and Ignorant, a conceit'd Scribler, a Fool, and a Liar. Mr. Leeds was too well bred to use any Man so indecently and so scurrilously, and moreover his Esteem and Affection for me was extraordinary; So that it is to be fear'd that Pamphlet may be only a Contrivance of somebody or other, who hopes perhaps to sell two or three year's Almanacks still, by the sole Force and Virtue of Mr. Leeds' Name; but certainly, to put Words into the Mouth of a Gentleman and a Man of Letters, against his Friend, which the meanest and most scandalous of the People might be asham'd to utter even in a drunken Quarrel, is an unpardonable Injury to his Memory, and an Imposition upon the Publick."

Leeds replied again, and to this reply in the issue for 1735 Poor Richard makes reference:

"But having receiv'd much Abuse from Titan Leeds deceas'd (Titan Leeds when living would not have us'd me so) I say, having receiv'd much Abuse from the Ghost of Titan Leeds, who pretends to be still living, and to write Almanacks in Spight of me and my Predictions, I cannot help saying, that tho' I take it patiently, I take it very unkindly. And whatever he may pretend 'tis undoubtedly true that he is really defunct and dead. First because the Stars are seldom disappointed, never but in the Case of wise Men, *capiens dominabitur astris*, and they foreshow'd his Death at the Time I predicted it. Secondly,

"Twas requisite and necessary he should die punctually at that Time, for the Honour of Astrology, the Art profess'd both by him and his Father before him. Thirdly, 'Tis plain to every one that reads his two last Almanacks (for 1734 and 35) that they are not written with that Life his Performances use to be written with; the Wit is low and flat, the little Hints dull and spiritless, nothing smart in them but Hudibras's Verses against Astrology at the Heads of the Months in the last, which no Astrologer but a dead one would have inserted, and no Man living would or could write such Stuff as the rest. But lastly I convict him in his own Words, that he is dead (*ex ore suo condemnatus est*) for in his Preface to his Almanack for 1734, he says. Saunders adds another Gross Falshood in his Almanack, viz. that by my own Calculation I shall survive until the 26th of the said Month October, 1733, which is as untrue as the former. Now if it be as Leeds says, untrue and a gross Falshood that he surviv'd till the 26th of October, 1733, then it is certainly true that he died before that Time; and if he died before that Time, he is dead now, to all Intents and Purposes, any thing he may say to the contrary notwithstanding."

But the feature that gave widest popularity to "Poor Richard's Almanack" was the short epigrammatic sayings with which he filled the blank spaces on the calendar pages as shown in the illustration on page 125. They were mixed with the calendar announcements indiscriminately and are to be distinguished only by the difference in type face.

*Mon. March hath xxvi days.*

My Love and I for Kisses play'd,  
 She would keep stakes, I was content,  
 But when I won she would be paid;  
 'Tis made me ask her what she meant:  
 Quoth she, since you are in this wrangling vein,  
 Here take your Kisses, give me mine again

1	Q. Caroline Nat.	11	6	9	St. David
2		12	21	6	Drif. 4 16 mo.
3	High Spring tides.	1	30	6	New D 4 day,
4	Sund. Lent	2	20	6	at 10 at night.
5	* set 11 2	3	7	6	Let my respected
6	Days 11 h. 54 m	4	20	6	friend J. G.
7	Wind and cloudy	5	18	6	sets 9 40 aft.
8	* S Q cold	6	20	6	Accept this birth
9	Cent. V then	6	11	6	ble wife of me.
10	Spring Q begins	7	19	5	viz.
11	Δ V &c makes	8	3	5	First Quarter
12	Eq. Day & Night	9	16	5	Ingenious, learn
13	Q Q S V S	10	29	5	en, envy'd Tenth,
14	Windy but warm	10	11	5	sets 3 morn.
15	Days incr. 3 h.	11	24	5	Go on as thou'st
16	* set 10 20	12	11	5	egan;
17	St. Patrick	1	19	5	Eventhence will
18	Palm Sunday	2	22	5	take pride
19	March many even	2	13	5	Full @ 19 day
20	S Q S there	3	25	5	in the Morn.
21	How be huffs, poor	3	11	5	Drif 8 46 aft.
22	* set 10 0 Fool	5	19	5	That thou'st
23	Good Friday	6	1	5	their country
24	Nose fair & clear	6	13	5	man
25	EASTER Day	7	24	5	
26	* set 9 45	8	17	5	Drif. 1 morn.
27	High winds, with	9	20	5	Last Quarter.
28	some wata to the	10	22	5	Hunger never
29	S Q end	10	16	5	saw bad bread.
30	S Q -	11	30	5	Days incr. 3 38
31	* set 9 27	12	14	5	Drif. 3 28



A few of these maxims, selected at random, are as follows:

- "Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee."
- "Diligence is the Mother of Good Luck."
- "God helps Them that help Themselves."
- "Bargaining has neither Friends nor Relations."
- "Early to Bed, Early to rise, makes a Man healthy, wealthy and wife."
- "An Empty Bag cannot stand upright."
- "Ben beats his Pate and fancys wit will come;
- "But he may knock, there's Nobody at home."

Franklin summed them up in a preface to the Almanack of 1758 (not 1757, as was stated in the "Autobiography") which is sometimes entitled "Father Abraham's Speech to the American People" and sometimes "The Way to Wealth." Of it Paul Leicester Ford says:

"It is this preface which has given the name of Poor Richard currency in alien races, and a quotable quality to this day. It has been printed and reprinted again and again. In every size, from a 'pot duodecimo' up to 'imperial folio'; in thousands for the plow-boy, and in limited and privately printed editions at the expense of noblemen; for the 'penny-horrible' hawker, and for the bibliomaniac; for the 'Society for Preserving Property Against Republicans and Levelers,' and for the 'Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor'; and under the titles of 'Father Abraham's Speech,' 'The Way to Wealth,' and 'La Science du Bon-

**A POCKET  
ALMANACK**  
For the Year 1744.  
Fitted to the Use of PENN-  
SYLVANIA, and the neighbour-  
ing Provinces.  
With several useful ADDITIONS.  
By R. SAUNDERS, *Phil.*  
**PHILADELPHIA:**  
Printed and sold by B. FRANKLIN.

<i>Sigs, Planets, and Aspects.</i>	
♈ Aries, Head & Face.	☉ Sol.
♉ Taurus, Neck.	☾ Luna.
♊ Gemini, Arms.	♄ Saturn.
♋ Cancer, Breast.	♃ Jupiter.
♌ Leo, Heart.	♂ Mars.
♍ Virgo, Belveils.	♀ Venus.
♎ Libra, Reins.	☿ Mercury.
♏ Scorpio, Secrets.	♊ Trine.
♐ Sagittary, Thighs.	♏ Quartile.
♑ Capricorn, Knees.	♆ Sextile.
♒ Aquary, Legs.	♌ Conjunct.
♓ Pisces, Feet.	♋ Opposition.

Pocket edition of the Almanack.

homme Richard,' it has proved itself one of the most popular American writings. Seventy-five editions of it have been printed in English, fifty-six in French, eleven in German, and nine in Italian. It has been translated into Spanish, Danish, Swedish, Welsh, Polish, Gaelic, Russian, Bohemian, Dutch, Catalan, Chinese, modern Greek, and phonetic writing. It has been printed at least four hundred times, and is to-day as popular as ever."

Testimony to the value of the wisdom of the maxims is given by John Paul Jones, famous in American history as a naval officer in the War of the Revolution. The government of France had promised a new ship to Jones and he waited at Brest, on the seacoast, month after month for it to arrive. He wrote for a fulfilment of the promise to everybody who might be connected with the transaction, even to the King of France himself, but the vessel was not forthcoming. One day he came across a copy of "Poor Richard's Almanack" in which he read the sentence, "If you would have your Buſi-neſs done, go; if not, fend." He took the hint, immediately journeyed to Versailles, and soon obtained an order for the purchase of the ship which, in grateful recognition of the source from which came the suggestion that brought an end to his difficulties, he named *Bon Homme Richard*.

<sup>1</sup> For twenty-five years Franklin compiled and printed the Almanack, the one in which appears the summing up of its philosophy being the last one

edited by him. In 1748 it was enlarged from twenty-four to thirty-six pages and the size from  $2\frac{7}{8}$  x  $5\frac{7}{8}$  inches to  $3\frac{1}{8}$  x  $5\frac{7}{8}$  inches, the name being changed to "Poor Richard Improved." Small engravings first appeared in the issue for 1749.



CHAP. XII.

*As a Business Man.*

Business, the Plague and Pleasure of my Life,  
Thou charming Mistress, thou vexatious Wife;  
Thou Enemy, thou Friend, to Joy, to Grief,  
Thou bring'st me all, and bring'st me no Relief,  
Thou bitter, sweet, thou pleasing, teasing Thing,  
Thou Bee, that with thy Honey wears a Sting;  
Some Reprieve, prithee do, yet do not give,  
I cannot with thee, nor without thee live.

SO WROTE Poor Richard in his Almanack of 1742, fourteen years after Benjamin Franklin went into business for himself and six years before the date of his retirement permanently from it. The wisdom that experience in business had brought to him and with which Poor Richard for so many years pointed the way to achievement is to be found tersely stated in the epigrams and aphorisms which filled what would otherwise have been the blank spaces in the Almanack. To those who would look further into his business philosophy are commended the short papers entitled "Advice to a

Young Tradesman," "Hints for Those That Would Be Rich," and particularly "The Way to Wealth," which has been described as "the best sermon ever preached upon industry and frugality." Prof. Albert Henry Smyth found seventy-three repetitions in Franklin's writings of his favorite phrase "industry and frugality," and adds "there are many more."

The great business enterprises of the present day had no counterpart in the America of the Eighteenth Century. We were then truly a country of shopkeepers. John F. Watson gives an interesting picture of the business men of that time.

"The tradesmen before the Revolution (I mention these facts with all good feeling)," he says, "were an entirely different generation of men from the present. Between them and what were deemed the hereditary gentlemen there was a marked difference. 'The gentry think scorn of leather aprons,' said Shakespeare. In truth, the aristocracy of the gentlemen then was noticed, if not felt, and it was to check any undue assumption of ascendancy in them that the others invented the rallying name of 'the Leather Apron Club'—a name with which they were familiar before Franklin's 'junta' was formed, and received that other name. In that day the tradesmen and their families had far less pride than now. While at their work, or in going abroad on weekdays, all such as followed rough trades, such as carpenters, masons, coopers, blacksmiths, &c., universally wore a leathern apron before them, and

covering all their vest. Dingy buckskin breeches, once yellow, and check shirts and a red flannel jacket was the common wear of most working men; and all men and boys from the country were seen in the streets in leather breeches and aprons and would have been deemed out of character without them. In those days, tailors, shoemakers, and hatters waited on customers to take their measures, and afterward called with garments to fit them on before finished.

"No masters were seen exempted from personal labour in any branch of business living on the profits derived from many hired journeymen; and no places were sought out at much expense, and display of signs and decorated windows, to allure custom. Then almost every apprentice, when of age, ran his equal chance for his share of business in his neighbourhood, by setting up for himself, and, with an apprentice or two, getting into a cheap location, and by dint of application and good work, recommending himself to his neighbourhood.

"The overworked and painfully excited business men of the present day have little conception of the tranquil and composed business habits of their forefathers in the same line of pursuits in Philadelphia. The excited and anxious dealers of this day might be glad to give up half of their present elaborate gains, to possess but half of the peace and contentment felt and enjoyed by their moderate and tranquil progenitors."

James Parton in his "Life of Benjamin Franklin" adds to the picture of the colonial business man and his activities by saying, "A store was simply a

dwelling house, with a room full of goods on the ground floor, and a wooden bee-hive, anchor, Bible, ship, basket, or crown, hung over the door."

Benjamin Franklin did not stop with preaching to others in his Almanack and "Gazette" correct principles in business. He practised them himself. Industry, frugality, modesty of demeanor, self-reliance these were the foundation stones upon which he built, and that he built well is attested by the comparatively short period in which he secured a competence and was enabled to retire.

But there were croakers in Philadelphia at the time when he went into business as there seem to be in all places at all times. One such, whom he describes as "a Person of note, an elderly Man, with a wife Look and a very grave Manner of speaking," one day stopped at his door, asked him if he were the young man who had lately opened the printing house, and, being answered in the affirmative, expressed his sympathy on the ground that the enterprise was sure to fail.

The elderly gentleman was not alone in his dismal prophecy. In a discussion at what was called the "Merchants' Every Night Club" the general opinion was that since there were already two printers in Philadelphia, a third could not succeed. But a Dr. Baird gave a contrary opinion. "The Industry of that Franklin," said he, "is superior to anything I ever saw of the kind; I see him still at

work when I go home from Club and he is at work again before his neighbors are out of bed."

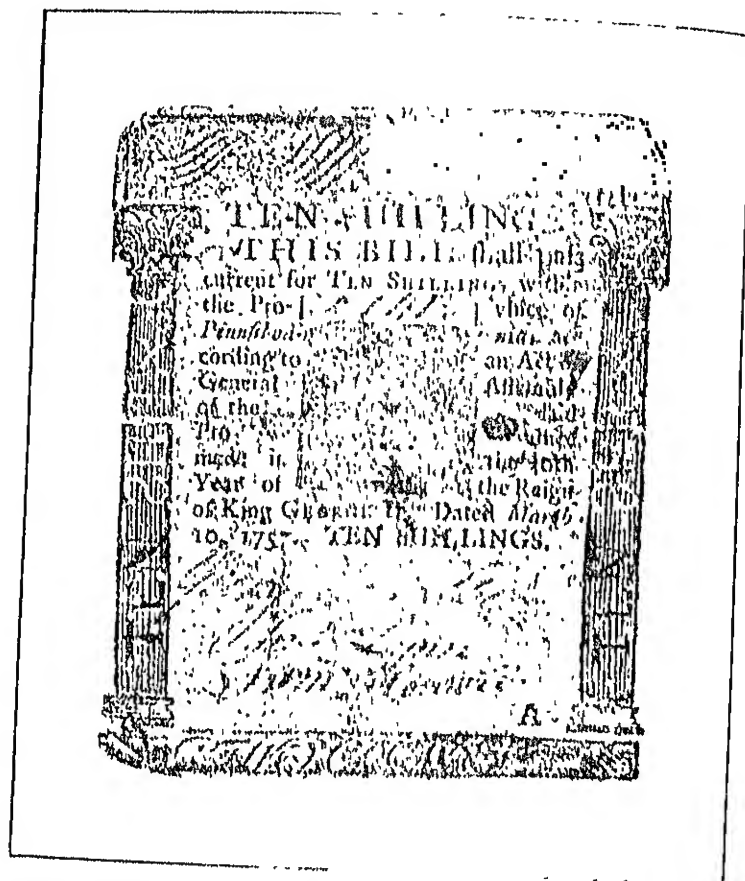
Diligence was characteristic of Franklin's long and busy life. At the age of sixty-nine we find him writing to his friend Priestly, "In the Morning at six I am at the Committee of Safety, which Committee holds till near nine, when I am at the Congress and that sits till after four in the afternoon."

Franklin had a due regard for appearances. A chapter in the "Autobiography" is to the following effect:

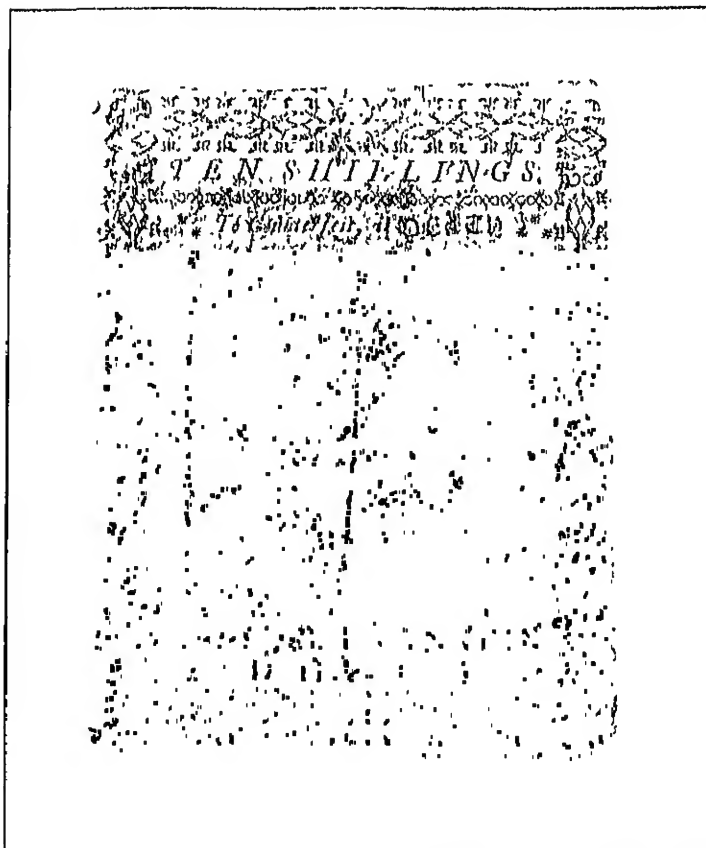
"In order to secure my Credit and Character as a Tradesman, I took care not only to be in reality industrious and frugal, but to avoid all Appearance to the contrary. I dress'd plainly; I was seen at no Places of idle Diversion. I never went out a fishing or shooting; a book, indeed, sometimes debauch'd me from my Work, but that was seldom, snug, and gave no Scandal; and, to show that I was not above my Business, I sometimes brought home the Paper I purchased at the stores through the streets on a Wheelbarrow."

Franklin's independence is illustrated by an anecdote related by Jared Sparks. Some of the patrons of the "Pennsylvania Gazette" thought that he was too free in his criticism of the public acts of certain persons of high standing and warned him against its continuance as prejudicial to his business welfare. By way of answer, Franklin invited his critics and the other gentlemen of whom they spoke,





Design for paper money made by Benjamin Franklin. Exact size of original, in possession of the author.



The veins of a leaf were used to make counterfeiting difficult. The inscription reads: "To Counterfeit is DEATH."

to supper. They accepted, and when they had assembled at his board they found, much to their surprise, nothing before them but two puddings made of coarse meal, usually called "sawdust pudding," and a stone pitcher of water. Franklin ate heartily, although his guests found it practically impossible to do so. When he had finished he dismissed them with the statement, "My friends, any one who can subsist on sawdust pudding and water, as I can, needs no man's patronage."

Franklin was careful of the quality of his work. While learning his trade, and afterward when following it, he looked carefully into every method and process, with a view to determining for himself the reason for each operation, and frequently he was able to substitute better ones. Examination of the books and pamphlets he printed shows his work to have been of a uniformly higher grade than that of the other printers of his time or of the period which preceded his. We have already seen (p. 64) how he obtained one of his first orders, the public printing of Pennsylvania, because of the better quality of his workmanship.

Of Franklin's position in the business world in 1744, sixteen years after he began and four years before he was to retire, Parton says:

"His 'Gazette' became the leading newspaper of all the region between New York and Charleston. Poor Richard continued to amuse the whole coun-

try, to the great profit of its printer, who was obliged to put it to press early in October in order to get a supply of copies to the remote colonies by the beginning of the new year. All the best jobs of printing given out by the provinces of New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, fell to the office of Franklin; who, by means of his partnerships, had a share also in the good things of Virginia, New York, the Carolinas, and Georgia. His schoolbooks, his hand-books of fannery, agriculture, and medicine, his numberless small pamphlets, his considerable importations from England, all contributed to swell his gains."

Of these profits Parton adds: "Probably his business in the most prosperous years did not yield a profit of more than two thousand pounds sterling. But there was not, probably, another printer in the Colonies whose annual profits exceeded five hundred pounds."

Sydney George Fisher in "The True Benjamin Franklin," says: "Although extremely economical and thrifty in practice as well as in precept, he had very little love of money, and took no pleasure in business for mere business' sake." Fisher estimates Franklin's fortune at the time of his death to have been "considerably over one hundred thousand dollars." Parton gives the amount "at a liberal estimate, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, of which about two-thirds was productive."

## CHAP. XIII.

*Partnerships.*

IN ALL his business arrangements Benjamin Franklin was careful to have complete understandings in advance. It is the almost universal experience that partnerships are prolific sources of quarrels. Franklin had many business partnerships, but all, with possibly one exception, turned out satisfactorily. This was owing, he said, "a good deal to the Precaution of having very explicitly Settled, in our articles, everything to be done by or expected from each Partner so that there was Nothing to dispute; which Precaution I would therefore recommend to all who enter into partnerships; for, whatever esteem Partners may have for, and Confidence in, each other at the time of the Contract, little Jealousies and Disgusts may arise, with Ideas of Inequality in the Care and Burden, Business, &c., which are attended often with Breach of Friendship and of the connexion; perhaps with lawsuits and other disagreeable Consequences."

It is interesting to speculate on how wide might have become the operations of Benjamin Franklin had he continued in business for the remainder of his long life. Success in printing nowadays is considered to be entirely a matter of personality. Some one man or group of men dominates every

printing establishment, which means that it is necessarily a local business. In all the United States, with more than thirty-one thousand printing and publishing establishments, there are comparatively few conducting plants in places remote from their main offices. Benjamin Franklin operated printing houses located in widely separated parts of the Colonies and the West Indies. He was the first American trust magnate and the only one so far as the printing business is concerned.

The first of his ventures of the kind after the dissolution of the firm of Franklin and Meredith occurred in 1731, when he had been in business only three years. This partnership was with Thomas Whitmarsh, who began in Charleston, S. C., October 1, 1731, and who the next year established a newspaper, the "Gazette," the first paper in either of the Carolinas. He was afterward appointed printer to the government.

Franklin had later another partner in Charleston, as successor to Whitmarsh. He was Peter Timothy, son of the Louis Timothee, who, as previously related, was the editor of Franklin's German newspaper, the "Philadelphische Zeitung."

Three partnerships concern themselves with relatives. Having become reconciled to his brother James, whom he visited, in Newport, R. I., to which place James had removed his printing office from Boston, Franklin returned to Philadelphia

with his brother's son, who also bore the name of James, taught him the printing trade, and a few years later sent him back to Newport with a new assortment of types to be added to the equipment which his mother was using in her management succeeding the death of the boy's father. This was a philanthropic rather than a business enterprise.

Franklin had another nephew, Benjamin Mecom, son of one of his sisters, whom he took into his shop in Philadelphia, taught the trade, and then established in business in Antigua, West Indies. The boy afterward returned to Boston, where Franklin again helped to set him up in business. He was only moderately successful and later made another move this time to New Haven, where Franklin procured for him the office of postmaster.

William Dunlap was another of Franklin's partners who was a relative, although by marriage, he having married into Mrs. Franklin's family. He began printing at Lancaster, but later removed to Philadelphia. According to Isaiah Thomas his "printing was correctly and handsomely executed." He subsequently left the business to engage in the study of divinity, and in 1768 became the rector of a parish in Virginia.

Samuel Holland and Benjamin Franklin signed an agreement June 14, 1753, under which Holland

began to print at Lancaster, Pa. Franklin was to let Holland have a printing press and type; Holland was to keep them in good order and to pay thirty pounds a year in four instalments. Hall and Miller were the names of two others of Franklin's partners at Lancaster. All of the Lancaster partners, including William Dunlap, were probably connected with the same plant.

William Smith was also a partner of Franklin in the West Indies. He established in Dominica in 1765 "The Freeport Gazette or the Dominica Advertiser" printed weekly on Saturday "on foolscap sheet and with new long primer and small pica type."

Hildeburn gives three other partnerships, all in Philadelphia, as follows: B. Franklin and G. Armbruster, 1747-1750; B. Franklin and J. Boehm, 1749-1751; and B. Franklin and A. Armbruster, 1754-1758.

Articles of agreement were signed February 27, 1741, between Benjamin Franklin and James Parker, who had served his apprenticeship with William Bradford in New York, by the terms of which Parker was to establish himself in that city. When Bradford discontinued the publication of his "New York Gazette" Parker reestablished the paper under the title of "The New York Gazette, Revived in the Weekly Post-Boy," and he probably retained Bradford's subscription list.



The original agreement with Parker was for six years, but it continued until Parker's death in 1770. Franklin provided the plant, which is quoted by Livingston to have been: "A Printing Press with all its necessary Appurtenances, together with 400 Pounds Weight of Letters; but of 'all charges for Paper, Ink, Ball, Tympan, Wool, Oyl and other things necessary,' two thirds was entered against Parker and one third against Franklin." The profits or losses were divided in the same proportions.

When Franklin retired from active business he turned over his printing and publishing business to David Hall, his foreman, who was to carry it on under the firm name of Franklin and Hall and to pay Franklin one thousand pounds a year for eighteen years, at the end of which time Hall was to become sole proprietor. This agreement Hall faithfully carried out.

In the final settlement James Parker acted as Franklin's representative, the latter being then in England. Parker made an inventory and appraisal (pp. 92, 93) showing that Hall had not kept the outfit up to a very high standard of efficiency. The manuscript of his report to Franklin is in the Typographic Library and Museum of the American Type Founders Company in Jersey City, and since it has not previously been published is here given in full. The long letter seems to justify the des-

ignation sometimes made of Parker as "the weeping philosopher." It is as follows:

Philadelphia, February 3, 1766.

Hon. Sir:

This accompanies one Copy of the State of your Accounts with Mr. Hall according to the best of my Skill and Judgment, and the Quantity and State of the Printing Office: And tho' I have endeavoured to mention every Thing as plainly as I could, yet possibly some Articles may need a little Explanation, besides what is so set down: The Valuation of the Printing Materials seems smaller than I imagin'd it would be; but as I examin'd all the Letter, and saw the whole weigh'd, I could not do otherwise: for the greatest Part of the Letter is much worn; the Old Brevier fit for very little, and Mr. Hall purposes to throw it by as soon as he can, having got a new Fount himself already come over, to use in its Stead,- and indeed the whole is worn much, except the Double Pica, and newest English, tho' neither of them are new, we weigh'd the Forms and Pages of Almanacks &c. with all their Rules in and about them, so that those Rules are charged in the Letter the same as the Letter: In weighing a Form, we only took the Chace out of the Weight,- and in weighing the Letter in the Cases, we weigh'd two empty Cases first, and took their Weight always out of it, -the Furniture and Rules not actually up in Forms was but little and poor, and he must soon get himself more:- One of the Presses is almost done its best, having been mended so often, as to be very patch'd and Mackled: -On the whole, I think I have valued it, at what I thought was the

Value of it, supposing no Advantage of one wanting to buy it, or of one wanting to sell it, on either side to be taken.- yet Mr. Hall says, if there be any Particulars in it, that you shall make objection to, he is willing it should be rectified. With Respect to the Paper furnished by you he says, he had no other Rule to ascertain it, than by the Work-Books, which we carefully look'd over, and set down the Quantity used in every Job and Newspaper, As the Paper used for Public Work before 1756, and fundry other Work, had been settled and accounted for to you already, as by the Accounts he produced in your own Writing appears.- Tho' we settled the Pocket Almanacks he sold at 6*d* which is as he sold them wholesale, yet he charges you with those sent to Rhode Island but at 4*d* which were part of those he charges himself 6*d* at.- The Money paid by him in England at fundry Times, as charged Stirl. we reckon'd Exchange @ 170, as a Medium, as for some of that Money he gave above L. 100--and for some others little more than 160, and we have been as exact in reckoning every thing as we possibly could.- We had gone on very nigh finishing when we recollected some of the Money, both of what you received, and what he had, was due to you before the Partnership began: This obliged us to have a new research, and a thorough new Examination of all the Books and Accounts, and discovered, that he had received the sum of £. 246. 4. 2½ of Money due to you before the Partnership began, which Sum being included already in the Articles of Numb. 1 on the Credit Side, whereby you are credited for one half of it, we credited the

other Half at the Bottom of the General Account, being £.123.2:1 $\frac{1}{4}$ —Again we found of the Sums you had received, the sum of £.185.6:7 which belonged to you before the Partnership began, and as you had been charged with the Half of that in No. 3 Debtor side, so we have credited the General Account for that Half £. 92.13:3 $\frac{1}{2}$ —This we thought the most eligible Way, as we had already enter'd and cast up the Whole before; On your Considering the Matter, I think you will find this to be the right, and perhaps the best that could be, to set such blend'd Accounts in the clearest Light.—There are some of the Books and Pamphlets printed in the Partnership unfold, some of which he has taken to himself, and allowed for them, but some others which don't appear saleable, he has left, and if hereafter any of them sells, he will account for them:—And upon the Whole, if any Mistake or Error shall be hereafter discovered on either Side, he is willing it should be rectified,—If you should return home this Spring or Summer, you can examine any thing you shall think wrong yourself:—As I shall leave the final passing of them, till I hear from you, or such Return to do it yourself.

My last to you was from Burlington, the End of last December, and beginning of January:—I came down here, tho' scarce able to crawl, the 16th instant,—I continued all the rest of the Month to proceed on with the Accounts, whenever I was able to stir, tho' I had a Relapse, or rather only an Increase of the Pain, a few Days after I came, that rendered me unable to walk for three Days,—and am still but very poorly,—I hope to be able to get back again to Burlington,—as it is not com-

fortable to be sick from home:—nor there neither, if it could be help'd.--I have now been in the Gout three Months, and have had it some Days in the Heart and Stomach so bad, I thought I could not live:—My Son been sick above three Months,—and he is but poorly yet, tho' he is mending, and likely to get well. On the Whole, this year past has been a distressed one with me. But, God's Will be done.

Mr. Foxcroft is gone to Virginie, and I have not heard any thing from him since his Departure:—I wish I may hear from you, before the End of this Month, where I am to put the Printing-Materials of B. Mecom's that are now at Burlington: I have no body there at Work, all my Boys being gone to New York & Woodbridge: And indeed, I have no work there for them to do, if they were there:—I would immediately away to New York now, were I able to travel at any Rate, but I even fear, I shall hardly be able to get back to Burlington only, as the Weather is uncomfortable: but I will go as soon as I can. I think I wrote you before, I had secured the Goods you sent to Mr. Hughes, but they are unopen'd, as I would be there myself. I wrote also to Balfour, which I inclosed to you, and hope you will have received it:—I don't know any thing further material about Affairs wherein I am concerned, And those relating to the Publick you will doubtless have from abler and better Hands I wrote to B. Mecom lately, but had but a short Answer, that he would soon send me the Account &c. I have wrote again-- But, I fear nothing can quicken his Sluggishness. I have told Holt I intend to come to New York, and take my Printing Office

don't know what he designs: he keeps it  
to me: I heard the Gentlemen of Vir-  
ginia trying to get a new Printer, in Opposi-  
tion to Boyle, because he declined going on, or  
being under the Influence of the Governor  
as Green and Rind are parted. I think  
it is the Man, and that they have bought  
what was Stretch's, which by an Invoice  
was very compleat and good; so that  
it will be bad for Billy Hunter whether  
he lives or dies:—It was reported Boyle grew  
tired of his Return home but as we have not  
heard from thence, I can't say no more  
and Doubtless you will hear from thence  
before Croft soon, who can give you a better  
of the Matter.

It is necessary to send you two copies of the  
Bill.--- so another to the same Purposes as  
I leave in Mr. Hall's Hands to be for-  
warded you, with them, Therefore, I think I can  
do no more, than all Respects &c. from

Your most obliged Servt.

JAMES PARKER.

Hall made some Demands for hiring  
a Press: he says he hired one at your Particular  
one Time: --that he had one constantly  
and for 18 Months two of 'em: never less  
than 25. a Week, and great Part of the Time 25.---  
I keep one Still, to draw out Accounts  
of the Money due, and thinks part of the  
Press should be yours:--As the Articles were  
in that Stead, and my Power did not extend  
I could only refer it to you:-- Two Iron

Fire places of yours are left, and he having a year or two ago, purchased two Cannon Stoves, he keeps them himself, as he bought them with his own Money.

Burlington, Feb. 10. -- I got as well home here as I expected: the Gout not quite left me yet. - As soon as my Strength will admit, I shall set forward for New York:--No Packet come in yet tho' momentarily expected:--I shall send down B. Mecom's Printing Office to Philadelphia, immediately, as Mrs. Franklin says she will see Care taken of it.

Feb. 11. --I just now heard Mr. Holt has had an Execution levied on his Goods; he does not tell me so himself, but I have heard it, and fear its too true: --I believe I shall be a far greater loser by him, than you were by B. Mecom: Its an easy Thing to behave with Fortitude, when all goes generally well: But I must expect it notwithstanding all may go against me: And indeed, I know I can't command Success in my Affairs, but as far as Resignation, and a Steady Diligence could deserve it, I have endeavoured it:--I have supported others and almost Starv'd myself: but I am thankful its no worse, and will still say, God's will be done.

Feb. 20. Last night heard the Packet was come in, but no Letter for me, so I now attempt to Stop: --I am still poorly with this wretched Gout, or rather now a real Rheumatism, as it takes all my Bones.--Hope only remains at the Bottom of Box. I long for my Health to go to New York, but I must submit.

One thing I forgot to mention, I must now note--One box of goods sent to Mr. Hughes came by Capt. Tillet,--this I suppose is the Stationary:--this I

have in my Store at New York, but I have Advice of another come in Capt. Berton,—which I suppose is the Electrical Machine, but as you have never sent a Bill of Lading for it either to Mr. Hughes or me, Capt. Berton won't deliver it without a Bill of Lading tho' I sent him word I would indemnify him so he keeps it in his Possession, -- and I cannot demand it without a Bill &c.

All Mecom's materials are sent down to Philadelphia.

Adieu.

An interesting account of Franklin's last business relationship with a printer on a considerable scale is given by Livingston. It is that which relates to his dealings with Francis Childs, a young printer of New York, who had learned his trade in the shop of William Dunlap. Franklin, then in his seventy-sixth year, was in Paris as Minister to France when Childs first wrote to him to enlist his interest in the printing business which he had established on a frail basis in New York, and the relationship, which cannot certainly be called a partnership because no definite statement appears in the correspondence of Franklin's acceptance of Childs' proposals, continued until a few days before Franklin's death in April, 1790.

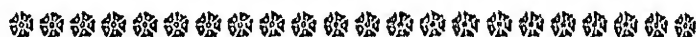
Franklin's experience with those who are known to have been his partners was almost entirely satisfactory to him, but that with Childs could hardly be so termed. Childs' letters are filled with



continual complaint of shortages in equipment of type sent to him from the foundry which Franklin had established for his grandson, Benjamin Franklin Bache, in Philadelphia, and with excuses for his failure to make payments as promised. A little less than a year before his death Franklin wrote to him as follows, giving a glimpse into his financial affairs at that late period of his life:

"You wrote to me in December last, that as soon as you return'd from attending the Assembly you would immediately set out for Philadelphia in order to make a final Settlement of our Accounts: This was a Promise very agreeable to me, as my late heavy Expence in building five Houses (which cost much more than I was made to expect) has so exhausted my Finances, that I am now in real and great Want of Money."

Franklin was able to live comfortably upon the annual payments by Hall and the salary received from the various public offices he held, although when Hall's payments ceased Franklin felt himself, as he said and was, in reduced circumstances.



#### CHAP. XIV.

##### *Typefounder.*

IN FRONT of Bartholomew Close, near Palmer's printing office in London, was located a type-foundry conducted by Thomas James, and it was to

be expected that a young man with an inquiring mind such as Benjamin Franklin possessed and particularly one with his interest in printing and everything connected with it, would be attracted to the foundry. There he witnessed the processes that go to make up the typefounder's art, the designing of characters, the making of molds, and the casting, trimming, and polishing of individual types.

After Franklin returned to Philadelphia in 1726, and what he considered to be an ill turn of fortune obliged him again to take up the printing trade, he made an arrangement, as has already been stated, to take over the mechanical management of Samuel Keimer's printing establishment. There he found that his knowledge of typefounding, although limited, served him in good stead. Keimer's type cases were in need of sorts, and since there was no place in America at which to purchase them and months were required to secure supplies from abroad, the young foreman contrived a mold, used the letters on hand to make punchcons, and with them cast type that served the purpose. Thus Benjamin Franklin became America's first typefounder.

It has already been related how he went as the employee of Keimer to Burlington, then the capital of New Jersey, to fulfill a contract which Keimer had secured to print the paper money of that province. He says in the "Autobiography," "I con-

trived a copper plate Press for it, the first that had been seen in the Country; I cut several Ornaments and Checks for the Bills." The press was probably not imposing in appearance or remarkable for its execution, and the design of the currency does not show a high order of artistic ability, but both are important in establishing the fact that, in making this copper plate press, Franklin was the first American maker of printing presses and the first designer and engraver for printing purposes.

Franklin's interest in the building of printing presses was not confined to his early years at the business. In 1753 we find him writing to his friend William Strahan, of London, as follows:

"If you can persuade your Press-Maker to go out of his old Road a little, I would have the Ribs made not with the Face rounding outwards, as usual, but a little hollow or rounding inwards from end to end; and the cramps made of hard cast Brasses, fixed not across the Ribs, but longways, so as to slide in the hollow Face of the Ribs. The reason is, that Brasses and Iron work better together than Iron and Iron. Such a press never gruels; the hollow Face of the Ribs keep the Oil better, and the Cramps, bearing on a large Surface, do not wear, as in the common Method. Of this I have had many years' Experience."

One of Franklin's English friends, with whom he corresponded for many years, was William Caslon, the famous typefounder. In a letter written to



Caractere Gravé à Paris pour M. FRANKLIN, par S. D. FOUQUIER le Jeune, 1781.

excellente dans son Art, & qu'on lui donne toute la perfection  
possible, l'on en sort en quelque manière, & l'on s'égale à ce  
de plus noble & de plus relevé. Vignon est un Peintre,  
non Musicien, & l'Auteur de Pyrame est un Poète, mais  
il est Mignard, Lully est Lully, & Corneille est Corneille,  
neuf et les Arts que l'on cultive dans un Etat descendent de  
la Nation et l'esprit du Gouvernement.

C D: B F G H I J K L M N O P Q  
R S T U V W X Y Z 1234567890

A B C D

Passy. Livingston says it was "probably designed by Frank-  
lin for use in printing important documents, which it might have  
advantage of some one to counterfeit." Lower panel shows  
From specimen sheet in the Typographic Library and Museum  
of the Type Founders Company, Jersey City, N. J.

Caslon in 1788 appears this paragraph voicing a complaint that one hears occasionally from printers even to this day:

"I approve very much of your Resolution not to send your Types abroad upon Credit. Their Excellence will secure a sufficient Demand without it. Some other British Founders have been so extravagantly liberal in that Way, and thereby created such a Number of Matter-Printers more than the Business of the Country can maintain, as may probably in the End be hurtful to both the Debtors and Creditors."

Another typefounder friend was John Baskerville, the celebrated printer and letter-founder of Birmingham. In a letter written in London to Baskerville Franklin acknowledged the receipt of some type specimen sheets which he promised to distribute among the printers of America, sending them by the first ship. He supposes that no orders for type unaccompanied by bill for money will be accepted, and suggests to the typefounder not to give credit, adding, "especially as I do not think it will be necessary."

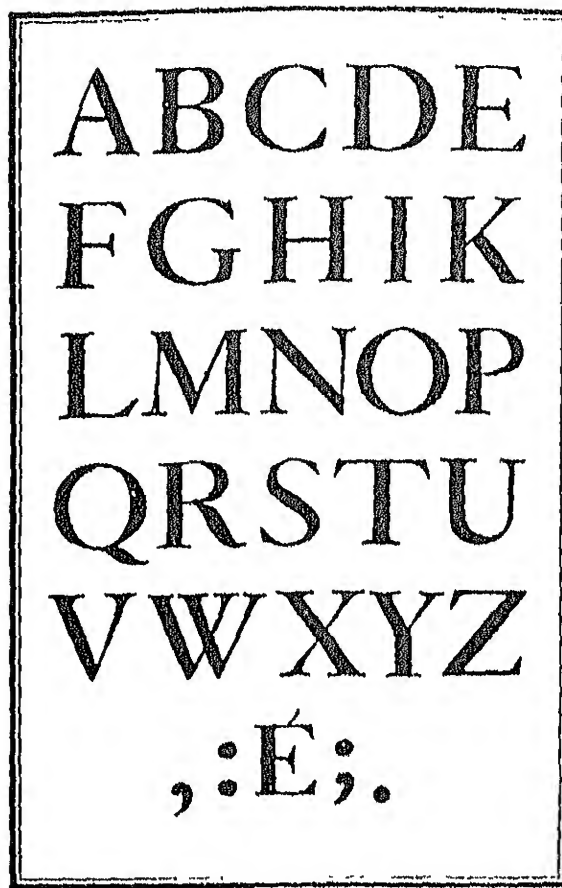
He advises Baskerville that James's Foundry, a part of which "among them some tolerable Hebrews and Greeks and some good Blacks" is to be sold and offers to buy whatever may be required for the Birmingham foundry.

At another time Franklin wrote an amusing

letter to Baskerville, giving particulars of a hoax he played upon a caller who had insisted that Baskerville's types were hard to read. This gentleman even predicted, as quoted by Franklin, that Baskerville would be "a Means of blinding all the Readers in the Nation; for the Strokes of your Letters, being too thin and narrow hurt the Eye, and he could never read a Line of them without Pain."

Franklin put up a job on the critic. He stepped into another room, secured a Caslon type specimen sheet, tore off the name, and then returned and exhibited it to the critic as a Baskerville specimen, asking him to point out the deficiencies of the designs mentioned. "He readily undertook it," says Franklin, "and went over the several Founts showing me everywhere what he thought Instances of that Disproportion; and declar'd, that he could not then read the Specimen, without feeling very strongly the Pain he had mentioned to me." So thoroughly did he commit himself in unconsciously disproving his own theory that Franklin spared him the confusion of an exposure.

Although in a letter to William Strahan in 1744, four years before he retired from active connection with his Philadelphia business, we find him acknowledging obligation "to you for your care and pains in procuring me the founding tools," Franklin seems not to have done much in the way of type-



Set of initials cast from matrices once owned by Franklin, now in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Size within border  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ".

founding in America until his return from his long residence in France. There he evidently cast considerable quantities of type and is said to have designed at least one alphabet of his own, the beautiful Script letter shown on page 153.

Livingston says of it, "This fount was probably designed by Franklin himself, for use in printing important documents, which it might have been to the advantage of some one to counterfeit, such as the Passport blank, or his commissions to commanders of privateers (if such a document was printed by him)."

Franklin engaged to a considerable extent in typefounding after his return from France, principally with a view to setting up in business his grandson, Benjamin Franklin Bache. To one purchaser, Francis Childs of New York, he wrote under date of May 8, 1787, an interesting letter in regard to sorts, as follows:

"You are always complaining of Imperfections in the Founts, which I suppose to proceed from your not having right Ideas of that Matter. They were all cast after the best Rules of the Foundries in England, and in the same Proportions. But as the Styles of Authors vary, and different Subjects use the different Sorts variously, there never could be a Fount so proportion'd as to run out equally in all Cases. And if whenever, in any Work, four or five Sorts run short, you call for the Deficiency, in a subsequent Work those Sorts, may be super-



A S P E C I M E N  
O F  
P R I N T I N G T Y P E S  
B E L O N G I N G T O  
Benjamin Franklin Bache's PRINTING OFFICE,  
PHILADELPHIA

*\* French Canon Rom.*  
Tandem aliq  
ABCDEFGGJ

*French Canon Rom.*  
Tandem aliqu  
ABCDEFGGHI

*Two Lines Double Pica Rom.*  
TANDEM aliqua  
ABCDEFGHIJHJ

*Two Lines Great Primer Rom.*  
TANDEM aliquand  
ABCDEFGHIJKLO

*Two Lines English Rom.*  
TANDEM aliquando, Qu  
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN

*Two Lines Pica Rom.*  
TANDEM aliquando, Quirites!  
I. Catilinam furentem audacia  
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPS

*Double Pica Rom.*  
TANDEM aliquando, Quirites!  
I. Catilinam furentem audacia,  
scelus anhelantem, pestem patrie ne  
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPSQU

*\* Double Pica Rom.*  
TANDEM aliquando, Quirites! I.  
Catilinam furentem audacia, sce-  
lus anhelantem, pestem patrie ne  
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPSQU

*\* French Canon Ital.*  
Tandem aliq  
ABCDEFGGJ

*French Canon Ital.*  
Tandem aliquan  
ABCDEFGGHI

*Two Lines Double Pica Ital.*  
Tandem aliquand  
ABCDEFGHIJHJ

*Two Lines Great Primer Ital.*  
Tandem aliquando,  
ABCDEFGHIJK

*Two Lines English Ital.*  
Tandem aliquando, Quiri  
ABCDEFGHIJKLMN

*Two Lines Pica Ital.*  
Tandem aliquando, Quirites! I.  
Catilinam furentem audacia, sce-  
lus anhelantem, pestem patrie ne  
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPS

*Double Pica Ital.*  
Tandem aliquando, Quirites! I.  
Catilinam furentem audacia, sce-  
lus anhelantem, pestem patrie ne  
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPSQU

*\* Double Pica Ital.*  
Tandem aliquando, Quirites! I.  
Catilinam furentem audacia, sce-  
lus anhelantem, pestem patrie ne  
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPSQU

Type specimen sheets issued by Benjamin Franklin Bache.  
Size inside the border 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BACHE'S SPECIMEN.

THIRTEEN LINES PICA.

York.

ELEVEN LINES PICA.

Boston.

NINE LINES PICA.

Baltimore

SEVEN LINES PICA.

Burlington.

FIVE LINES PICA.

Philadelphia City

FOUR LINES PICA.

Northumberland



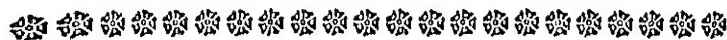
A Quantity of 10, 16, 24, 32, 48 & 72 Lines Pica is always to be disposed of,  
at B. F. BACHE'S Printing-Office, Market Street; As also a number of typogra-  
phical Cuts and a great Variety of 1 lower

From the Typographic Library and Museum of the American Type  
Founders Company, Jersey City, N. J.

abundant, and all the rest will appear deficient, so that there will be no End of proceeding in that Manner. Therefore it is, that Printers have usually to every large Fount what they call a Bomecase, or Fount Case, that is, a Case to hold those Sorts that are superfluous in one kind of Work and where they may be found when wanting in another. You remark that your now demanding more of sundry Sorts (after being supply'd with all you formerly thought wanting) is owing partly to your not taking an accurate List of the Imperfections at first: and I am persuad'd that the present List you have sent me is far from being accurate, since it is in Pounds weight, and not in the Number of Letters. This lumping Method of calling for Sorts to supply suppos'd Imperfections, 5 lb. of m's 3 lb. of s's, etc. etc. can never be accurate; and in this Instance of the Petit Romain, you may see already the Effect of such Inaccuracy, viz. to augment instead of diminishing the Imperfections of a Fount; for at first you want'd but 4 or 5 Sorts of the lower Case, and now you want 15 or 16, which is a great Part of the four £s twenty, and proves what I have said above that there can be no End of going on in this Way. However to oblige you, tho' it is much more Trouble as the Mold must be adjust'd afresh for every little Parcel, you shall have the Sorts you want if you send a List of them in Numbers. My Grandson will cast them, as soon as he has taken his Degree and got clear of the College; for then he purposes to apply himself closely to the Business of Letter founding and this is expect'd in July next. You shall also have some W's of a better form for the Pica as you desire.

And I will willingly receive the Petit Canon again which you propose to return."

To his grandson, who was twenty-one years of age at the time of his death, Franklin left "all the Types and Printing Materials which I now have in Philadelphia with the complete Letter Foundry, which, in the whole, I suppose to be worth near one thousand Pounds."



CHAP. XV.

*The Private Press at Passy.*

**B**ENJAMIN FRANKLIN sailed from Philadelphia on his mission as one of the three commissioners to France, October 27, 1776. He landed nearly two months later, proceeded immediately to Paris, and soon had established himself in the Hotel de Valentinois, in Passy, a village between Paris and Versailles, at which latter place the headquarters of the French government was located. The growth of Paris in the direction of Versailles in the years that have intervened has swallowed up the village of Passy, and the Hotel de Valentinois long since disappeared. A replica of Boyle's statue of Franklin in front of the post-office on Chestnut Street in Philadelphia has been placed in that part of Paris which once was

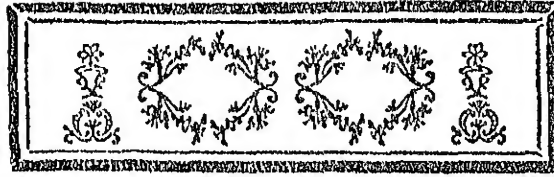
Passy on the Rue Franklin, so named because of Franklin's residence there.

He used the residence for eight and a half years, and it comes within the scope of the present volume because during practically all of that time he operated in it a printing equipment for the production of leaflets, broadsides, etc., some of them for practical use, but mostly for the amusement of himself and his friends.

Franklin's biographers have had little to say about the press at Passy. William Temple Franklin dismisses it with the single sentence, "Notwithstanding Dr. Franklin's various and important occupations, he occasionally amused himself in composing and printing, by means of a small set of types and a press he had in his house, several of his light essays, bagatelles, or *jeux d'esprit*, written chiefly for the amusement of his intimate friends."

Edward Everett Hale in his two volumes, "Franklin in France," says: "Franklin soon established in his own house at Passy a little printing establishment, from which occasionally a tract or handbill was issued. From this press the pretended 'Independent Chronicle,' with an account of Indian scalping, was issued, and the little books published here are among the treasures most desired by the connoisseurs."

Professor Smyth makes only one important



# INFORMATION

TO THOSE  
WHO WOULD REMOVE  
TO AMERICA.

**M**ANY Persons in Europe having directly or by Letters, express'd to the Writer of this, who is well acquainted with North-America, their Desire of transporting and establishing themselves in that Country; but who appear to him to have formed thro' Ignorance, mistaken Ideas & Expectations of what is to be obtained there; he thinks it may be useful, and prevent inconvenient, expensive & fruitless Removals and Voyages of improper Persons, if he gives some clearer & truer Notions of that Part of the World than appear to have hitherto prevailed.

He finds it is imagined by Numbers that the Inhabitants of North-America are rich, capable of rewarding, and dispos'd to reward all sorts of Ingenuity; that they are at the same time ignorant of all the Sciences; & consequently that strangers possessing Talents in the Belles-Letters, fine Arts, &c. must be highly esteemed, and so well paid as to become easily rich themselves; that there are also abundance of profitable Offices to be disposed of,

A

First page of a twelve-page pamphlet printed at Passy.  
Exact size.

From "Franklin and His Press at Passy."

164      *The Private Press at Passy.*

reference to the press in Passy: "Sometimes they were printed upon his private press at Passy, in limited editions of perhaps a dozen or fifteen copies. Nearly all are lost. The fictitious 'Supplement' exists in the Library of Congress and the Library of the American Philosophical Society, and the latter collection has also the printed original of 'La Belle et la Mauvaise Jambe' (Passy, 1779). But the other fugitive leaves have disappeared."

It remained for the late Luther S. Livingston in his beautiful volume, "Franklin and His Press at Passy," privately published by the Grolier Club in 1914, to present a nearly complete account of the printing done at the Hotel de Valentinois.

Livingston describes fifteen "bagatelles," fourteen of which, each a separately printed piece, are bound together in a little volume in the Franklin collection of William Smith Mason. He says, "three of these are sixteen pages each, one is of twelve pages, two of eight pages, one of six pages, one of four pages, and six of two pages (or a single leaf) each. The fifteenth is a single sheet printed on one side only, among the Franklin papers in the Library of the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.

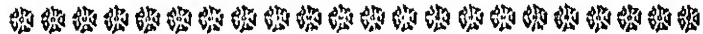
William Temple Franklin was too much of a dandy to think of giving his time and attention to such trivial matters as setting type and working

a press. A younger grandson, Benjamin Franklin Bache, was of a different mold. It was the grandfather's intention to bring the younger boy up in a way that would fit him for public business, but evidently reflection upon his own personal experience of the limited financial return to be derived from such a career caused him to change his mind, for we find him writing to the boy's father that he had determined to teach him a trade, that "he may have something to depend on, and not be oblig'd to ask Favours or Offices of anybody." Franklin further said, "he has already begun to learn the business from Masters who come to my House, and is very intelligent in working and quick in learning."

This reference is confirmed by an entry in Benjamin Franklin Bache's diary to the effect that a "master founder" had come to Passy to teach him to cast printing types and that the teacher was to remain all winter. A later entry says that M. Didot, whom he describes as "the best printer of this age and even the best that has ever been seen," had consented to take him into his house for some time in order to teach him his art. The statement is made that in the house is combined "engraving, the forge, the foundry, and the printing office." A further reference in the diary, dated April 5, 1785, to M. Didot's establishment, is to the effect that "the meals are frugal."



It has already been noted that William Temple Franklin referred to his grandfather's equipment as "a small set of types," which does not agree with a reference Benjamin Franklin made to it in a letter he wrote to Francis Childs after his return to Philadelphia, in which he said: "My printing Materials, consisting of a great variety of founts, were sent down the Seine some weeks before I left Pally." Livingston's investigations indicate that the equipment was a considerable one. Much correspondence with French typefounders, among them the famous house of Fournier, has been brought to light, and unless the type purchased was disposed of in ways not known and not now ascertainable, the supply must have been a large one. There is also some evidence to warrant the belief that two printing presses were operated.



## C H A P. XVI.

*Advertiser and Propagandist.*

FRANKLIN is sometimes spoken of as the first American advertiser, but there is no special reason for such a designation. The "Pennsylvania Gazette" under his ownership contained more advertising than it did under that of Samuel Keimer and more than was common to the other

colonial newspapers, but the circumstance is to be accredited rather to the enlarged circulation of the "Gazette," owing to its superiority as a newspaper, than to any particularly effective manner of promoting the advertising department.

Franklin himself was far from being a self-advertiser. Excepting for the statement of his public services that he prepared for the Continental Congress, he never made any claims for himself. Throughout his long career he was almost continually in the public service, but he never sought office or made anything like a special effort to obtain it. Although a seemingly indefatigable writer, he never issued so much as a single volume of his literary productions and on at least one occasion discouraged others from doing so.

He did, however, advertise occasionally for himself or the members of his family. The following examples show that to them, as to all other things with which he had to do, he imparted a measure of originality.

---

**T**AKEN out of a Pew in the Church  
some months since, a Common Prayer Book,  
bound in red, gilt, and lettered D. F. [Deborah  
Franklin] on each cover. The Person who took  
it is desired to open it and read the eighth Com-  
mandment, and afterwards return it into the  
same Pew again, upon which no further Notice  
will be taken.

---

ALL Persons indebted to Benj Franklin, Printer of this Paper, are desired to send in their respective Payments: (Those Subscribers for the News excepted, from whom a Twelve-Month's Pay is not yet due).

*Gentlemen, it is but a little to each of you, though it will be a considerable Sum to me; and lying in many hands wide from each other, (according to the Nature of our Business) it is highly inconvenient and scarce practical for me to call upon every One; I shall therefore think myself particularly obliged, and take it very kind of those, who are mindful to send or bring it in without further Notice.*

Franklin's English is a model for advertisement writers. Simplicity was its chief characteristic. He had the faculty of putting the most thought into the fewest words, extravagance in language being the target of one of his chief animadversions. Writing to John Jay from Paris in 1780 he says:

"Mrs. Jay does me much Honor in desiring to have one of the Prints, that have been made here of her Countryman. I send what is said to be the best of five or six engraved by different Hands, from different Paintings. The Verses at the Bottom are truly extravagant. But you must know, that the Desire of pleasing, by a perpetual Rife of Compliments in this polite Nation, has so used up all the common expressions of approbation, that they are become flat and insipid, and to use them almost implies Censure. Hence music, that formerly might be sufficiently praised when it was called

A MODEST  
ENQUIRY  
INTO THE  
*Nature and Necessity*  
OF A  
PAPER-CURRENCY.

---

Utile Nummus habet ; patriæ, charisq; propinquis  
Quantum largiri decess. ———— *Quid asper*  
Perf.

---

PHILADELPHIA  
Printed and Sold at the New PRINTING  
OFFICE, near the Market. 1729.

Franklin's initial effort in propagandist literature, which resulted in the issuance of thirty thousand pounds in paper currency by the governor and the assembly of the province of Pennsylvania in defiance of orders from England to the contrary. Size 3" x 5 1/2".

*bonne*, to go a little farther they call *excellente*, then *superbe*, *magnifique*, *exquise*, *celeste*, all which being in their turns worn out, there only remains *divine*; and, when that is grown as insignificant as its Predecessors, I think they must return to common speech and common sense; as, from vying with one another in fine and costly Paintings on their Coaches, since I first knew the Country, not being able to go farther in that Way, they have returned lately to plain Carriages, painted without arms or figures in one uniform color."

Franklin's studies in the art of expression both as a youth and practically throughout his whole life were pursued with one purpose in mind, to influence those who read what he wrote. He had the admirable quality of vision to be able always to see into things further than did those about him, and seeing clearly he desired others to do likewise. As a youth he practised the Socratic method, but later abandoned it for plain, substantial statements of arguments and facts. Later in life he sometimes employed the dialogue.

Every public project, such as paving, cleaning, and lighting the streets, establishing a fire company, hospital, public library, or university, brought forth an article from Franklin's pen published either in the "Gazette," or as a pamphlet, always interestingly and, as events proved, effectively written.

In his later years Franklin adopted another

# PLAIN TRUTH:

*Thos. Franklin*  
*1776*

## SERIOUS CONSIDERATIONS

On the PRESENT STATE of the  
CITY of PHILADELPHIA,  
A N D  
PROVINCE of PENNSYLVANIA.

---

By a TRADESMAN of Philadelphia.

*1776. - Benjamin Franklin del.*

---

*Capta urbe, nihil sit relictum ultile. Sed, per Deos Immortales, vos  
ego appello, qui semper domos, villas, signa, tabulas vestras, tan-  
ta estimationis fecistis; si ista, ejusdemque modi sint, quæ am-  
plexamini, retineat, si voluptatibus vestris otium præbere vultis; &  
expergiscimini aliquando, & capessite rempublicam. Non agitur  
nunc de factorum injuriis; LIBERTAS & ANIMA vestra in du-  
bio est. Dux hostium cum exercitu supra caput est. Vos cunctamini  
citant nunc, & dubitatis quid faciatis? Scilicet, res ipsa aspera  
est, sed vos non timetis eam. Imo vero maxime; sed inertia &  
mollitia animi, alius alium expectantes, cunctamini; videlicet,  
Dilecti immortalibus consili, qui hanc rempublicam in maximis peri-  
culis servaverunt. NON VOTIS, NEQUE SUPPLICIIS MULIE-  
RIBUS, AUXILIA DEORUM PARANTUR: vigilando, agen-  
do, bene consulendo, prospera omnia erdunt. Ubi securitie tute at-  
que ignavia tradideritis, nequequam Deos imploretis; irati, infestis,  
que sunt.*

*M. FOR. CAT. in SALUST.*

---

*B 9*  
Printed in the YEAR MDCCXLVII.

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The pamphlet written by Franklin that caused the inhabitants of eastern Pennsylvania, despite the protests of the Quakers, to put themselves in a state of defense against France and Spain. Original in the possession of the Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia. Size 3½" x 6½".

propaganda method, that of the hoax. Balzac termed him "the inventor of the lightning rod, the hoax, and the republic." A notable example was entitled "An Edict of the King of Prussia," in which the claim of the King, because of early German settlements upon the island, to a right to hold England as a German province and to lay taxes upon its inhabitants, was supported by the same kind of argument by which the ministry of George the Third attempted to justify its claim in respect to the American Colonies.

Another hoax took the form of a letter from a Hessian ruler to his representative in America, where Hessian soldiers were employed by Great Britain to fight against the colonial army, instructing him not to be too careful of their lives on the ground that more money was paid by England for dead soldiers than for those who fought and returned alive.

The most notable effort of the kind, however, was one intended to bring home to the people of Great Britain the horrors of warfare as conducted by the allies of the British soldiers, the Indians, in America. It was issued from the Private Press at Passy, as a pretended "Supplement to the Boston Independent Chronicle" and purported to be "an extract of a letter from Captain Gerrish of the New England militia." It gave particulars of eight large packages of scalps taken by the Seneca

The "scalp" hoax. Written by Franklin and printed at Passy. Original in the possession of the Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia. Size 8 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 12 $\frac{1}{8}$ ".



Indians from the inhabitants of the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, and sent by them as a present to the governor of Canada to be transmitted by him to England. Package No. 1 was said to contain forty-three scalps of soldiers, Nos. 2, 3, and 4, two hundred and ninety-seven of farmers; No. 5, eighty-eight scalps of women, and Nos. 6, 7, and 8, those of boys and girls, with twenty-nine infants' scalps of various sizes.

Some of Franklin's hoaxes were for amusement purposes primarily, although each usually had a moral of its own. One such was the famous "Parable of Persecution," written in biblical phraseology as the last chapter of Genesis, in which was contrasted man's inhumanity to man because of differences in religious belief with the patience of the Heavenly Father in passing judgment upon his children. Franklin memorized the chapter and it was his habit in the presence of ecclesiastics and others versed in the Scriptures to turn the conversation to it, then to pick up the Bible and to pretend to read it to them, to their wonder and often confusion because of the lack of previous knowledge of its existence as a chapter of the Bible.

An article published in the "Public Advertiser" of London, while Franklin was resident agent for the colonies there, entitled "Rules by Which a

COOL THOUGHTS  
ON THE  
PRESENT SITUATION  
OF OUR  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

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IN A LETTER TO A FRIEND IN THE COUNTRY.

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PHILADELPHIA:  
PRINTED BY W. DUNLAP. M, DCC, LXXIV.

A political pamphlet written by Franklin advocating the changing of Pennsylvania from a proprietary province to a royal colony. Original in the possession of the Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia. Size  $3\frac{1}{8}$ " x  $6\frac{1}{8}$ ".

176 *Advertiser and Propagandist.*

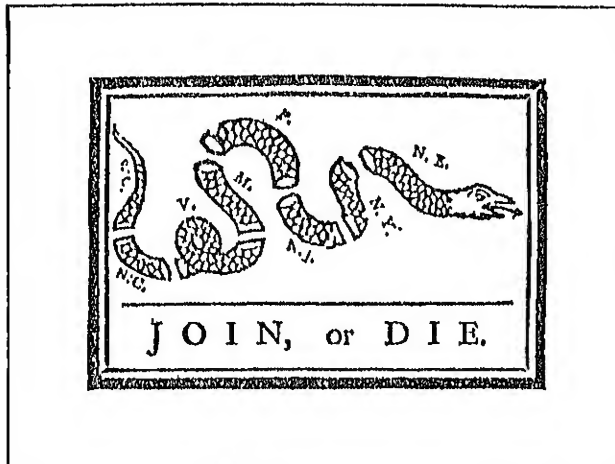
Great Empire May Be Reduced to a Small One," was not exactly a hoax but it carried indirectly a message that could not have been presented so effectively in any other way. There were twenty of the rules and they prescribed the exact course of conduct that Great Britain was at the time pursuing in connection with her colonies.

At a time such as the present when honesty in advertising and merchandizing is so much under discussion, and when Truth is the slogan upon the banner behind which associations of advertising men are marching, it is interesting to find a discussion of the subject of truth, or rather its antithesis, "lying," in the "Gazette" of the later months of 1730. One of the issues contains an editorial in which this statement is made:

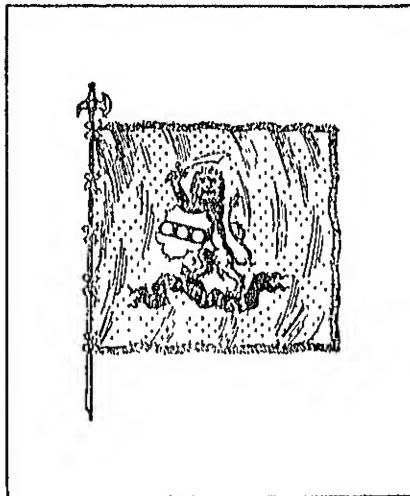
"There are a great many Retailers, who falsely imagine that being *Historical* (the modern phrase for *Lying*) is much for their Advantage; and some of them have a Saying, *That 'tis a Pity Lying is a Sin*, it is so useful in Trade."

The editorial discusses the matter for more than a page and in a later issue appear two letters, one of which, signed "Shopkeeper," says in part:

"Sir, I am a Shopkeeper in this City, and I suppose am the Person at whom some Reflections are



The first American Cartoon.  
 Drawn by Franklin and published in the "Pennsylvania Gazette,"  
 May 9, 1754.



A flag designed by Franklin  
 for the Pennsylvania "Associators," 1747. From  
 Ford's "The Many-Sided Franklin."

aimed in one of your late Papers. . . . Shopkeepers are therein accused of *Lying*, as if they were the only Persons culpable, without the least Notice being taken of the general *Lying* practis'd by Customers. They will tell a hundred Lies to undervalue our Goods, and make our Demands appear Extravagant."

The other letter "from a Merchant" pointed out that not only do shopkeepers lie when they sell but also when they themselves go out to buy.

In 1754 Great Britain and France were at war. A weakness of the Colonies consisted in the fact that they were disunited and this weakness Benjamin Franklin pointed out in the "Gazette" with a suggestion as to how the difficulty might be overcome. He illustrated his arguments with an engraving of a drawing of a serpent cut into pieces, each piece bearing the initials of the name of one of the Colonies, and beneath it the warning caption "Join, or Die." Thus he became the first American cartoonist.



## CHAP. XVII.

### *The First American Humorist.*

ENGLISH literature of the eighteenth century abounds in humor, wit, and satire, all produced in England itself. The writings of Addison, Swift,

Steele, and Pope, to mention only four of the brilliant essayists and satirists of the time, furnished abundant entertainment for their own age and the ages which have followed it; but in America literary production of a lighter vein in the Eighteenth Century is to be found only in the works of Benjamin Franklin. There it bubbles forth as continuously and as refreshingly as water from a hillside spring.

James Parton quotes David Hume as having said that a disposition to see things in a favorable light is a turn of mind it is more happy to possess than to be born to an estate of ten thousand a year. Benjamin Franklin had the turn of mind that not only enabled him to see things in the most favorable light but so to present them to others that they, too, could have the same privilege.

His sense of humor developed early, in support of which assertion may be quoted an incident related by William Temple Franklin. It was the custom of Josiah Franklin to say long graces before and after meals, a circumstance that proved irksome to the younger element in the family. One autumn day after the winter's provisions had been stored away, young Benjamin suggested to his father that if he would "say grace over the whole cask, once for all, it would be a vast saving of time."

The first of his literary efforts, the "Silence

180 *The First American Humorist.*

Dogood" papers, produced when he was a boy in his teens and offered anonymously as contribution to his brother's newspaper, evidence this gift of humor in an engaging manner. Exhumed by Professor Smyth from the dusty pages of the "New England Courant," they make good reading even at this late day.

"Poor Richard's Almanack" sprang into astonishing popularity because the sound sense of its aphorisms was expressed in such quaint humor and entertaining wit. Some of the humor was coarse belonging rather to the age of François Rabelais than to that of Oliver Wendell Holmes, but enough remains that may be repeated in polite society to make Franklin still the most quoted humorist in American literature.

Humor began to show itself in the columns of the "Pennsylvania Gazette" as soon as Franklin took hold of it. A correspondent asked: "I am courting a girl I have but little Acquaintance with. How shall I come to a Knowledge of her Faults and whether she has the Virtues I imagine she has." Franklin replied, "Commend her among her female Acquaintances."

His tendency always to see the humorous side of a situation sometimes got him into difficulties. "Andrew Miller, Peruke-maker, in Second Street, Philadelphia, takes Opportunity to acquaint his Customers, that he intends to leave off the Shaving

Business after the 22d of August next," was an advertisement appearing in the "Pennsylvania Gazette" that occasioned a letter from Mr. Franklin addressed to himself on the subject of "Shavers and Trimmers," in which occurred the statement: "If we would know why the Barbers are so eminent for their Skill in Politicks, it will be necessary to lay aside the Appellation of Barber and confine ourselves to that of Shaver and Trimmer, which will naturally lead us to consider the near Relation which subsists between Shaving, Trimming and Politicks, from whence we shall discover that Shaving and Trimming is not the Province of the Mechanic alone, but that there are their several Shavers and Trimmers at Court, the Bar, in Church and State." The article went on to consider the matter of shaving and trimming, particularly trimming, from every angle, evidently very much to the dissatisfaction of Mr. Miller, for in the next number of the "Gazette" appears an explanation from the editor. But, although it contains the statement, "I have no real Animosity against the person whose Advertisement I made the motto of my paper" the explanation could not have been satisfactory to any one able to read between the lines.

In 1731 Franklin printed an announcement of the sailing of a ship for Barbadoes at the bottom of which was this postscript: "N. B. No Sea Hens nor Black Gowns will be permitted on any Terms."



"Black Gowns," it seems, had reference to the clergy, some of whom became indignant because of being classed with "sea hens." In the "Gazette" of June 10th for that year appears a long "Apology for Printers" in which the argument is made on twelve numbered "particulars" that printers should not be held responsible for what is said in the things they print. One cannot help but be somewhat skeptical as to the accuracy of the statement in the "Apology" that this printer had nothing to do with the matter of adding to the announcement the postscript to which the reverend gentlemen objected.

Franklin never hesitated when opportunity offered to relate a joke at his own expense. One of his electrical experiments was an attempt to kill a turkey by shock. He himself received the full effect of the electrical discharge and was rendered unconscious. When restored his first remark was, "Well, I meant to kill a Turkey, and instead I nearly killed a goose."

Clad in a new suit of clothes, he walked over some barrels of tar on the wharf when the head of one of them gave way and Franklin was partly immersed in its contents. The incident was duly chronicled in the "Gazette." A typographical error in one issue of his paper was apt to be turned to good account in the next, usually with a letter from a supposed reader giving an entertaining account of other

printers' errors. How he turned his own physical infirmities into entertainment for his friends is shown in the delightful "Dialogue between Franklin and the Gout."

Sometimes he joked his fellow-editors. A rhyming contribution to the "Mercury" was signed B-d. Franklin referred to it in the "Gazette" as follows:

"Mr. Franklin, I am the Author of a Copy of Verses in the last Mercury. It was my real Intention [to] appear open, and not basely with my Vizard on, attack a Man who had fairly unmasked. Accordingly, I subscrib'd my Name at full Length, in my Manuscript sent to my Brother B-d; but he for some incomprehensible Reason, insert'd the two initial Letters only, viz. B. L. 'Tis true, every Syllable of the Performance discovers me to be the Author, but as I meet with much Censure on the Occasion, I request you to inform the Publick, that I did not desire my Name should be conceal'd; and that the remaining Letters are O, C, K, H, E, A, D."

Many stories of Franklin's sallies are told. One related by Patton is of a Quaker citizen who came to him with this inquiry: "Canst thou tell me how I am to preserve my small Beer in the back Yard? My Neighbors, I find, are tapping it for me." Franklin's solution was simple: "Put a barrel of old Madeira by the side of it."

The storm aroused in America by the passage of the Stamp Act by the English Parliament is a familiar incident of history. In one of the ex-

aminations before the committee of the Whig House which was held to consider the matter. Franklin was urged by his friends to repeat a reply he had made to a member who was a most strenuous advocate of the Act and who had told Franklin that if he would but assist the Ministry a little the Act could be amended so as to make it acceptable to the Colonies. Franklin gravely replied that he had thought of one amendment, a very little one, in fact the change of but a single word, which he felt would make the Act acceptable in America. The Tory member was much interested. Franklin then explained that the change he proposed was in the phrase "on and after the first day of November one thousand seven hundred and sixty-five, there shall be paid, etc.," where he would substitute "two" for "one." He declined to make the suggestion during the official examination, however, on the ground that it would be "too light and ludicrous for the House."

One day at dinner in a bottle of Madeira wine were found three flies apparently dead. Having heard that it was possible to revive flies supposedly drowned by placing them in the sun, Franklin tried the experiment, with the result that two were brought back to life. This caused him to remark: "I wish it were possible from this Instance, to invent a Method of embalming drowned Persons in such a manner that they may be recalled to Life at any

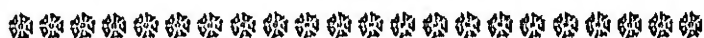
Period however Distant; for having a very ardent desire to see and observe the State of America a hundred Years hence, I should prefer to any ordinary Death the being immersed in a cask of Madeira Wine, with a few Friends, till that Time, to be then recalled to Life by the solar Warmth of my dear Country!"

Many a tense situation was relieved by a laugh following one of Franklin's remarks. There came a day when the Committee of Safety, composed principally of "dissenters," was required by the more strenuous among the Pennsylvania patriots to call upon the Episcopal clergy to refrain from praying for the king. The suggestion afforded an opportunity for a disagreeable and disturbing discussion, which was averted by Franklin. "The Measure," said he, "is quite unnecessary; for the Episcopal clergy, to my certain Knowledge, have been constantly praying, these twenty years, that 'God would give to the King and his Council Wisdom,' and we all know that not the least notice has ever been taken of that prayer. So, it is plain, the gentlemen have no interest in the Court of Heaven." Good humor was restored and the matter was dropped.

The most famous of the witty remarks credited to Franklin is probably that which relates to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. John Hancock is reported to have said, "We must be unanimous; there must be no pulling different ways;

we must all hang together." Franklin replied "Yes, we must, indeed, all hang together, or, no assuredly, we shall all hang separately." The incident is entirely traditional, but it is so characteristic as to be generally accepted as authentic.

The first year or two of the Revolution was discouraging for the envoys in France. Their success on the continent of Europe depended almost entirely upon the success of the revolutionary arms in America. The outlook for the American forces was bad, but news came that was worse, to the effect that General Howe had captured Philadelphia. "Well, Doctor," said an Englishman jubilantly to Franklin, "Howe has taken Philadelphia." "I beg your pardon, Sir," was Franklin's reply; "Philadelphia has taken Howe," which proved to be true, for while the British General and his officers were wasting their time in the agreeable social gaieties of the Quaker city Washington was reorganizing his army, thereby laying the foundation for the victories that came later.



## CHAPTER XVIII.

### *Literary Style.*

"*QUERY*: How shall we judge of the goodness of a writing? Or what qualities should a writing have to be good and perfect in its kind?"

*“Answer.* To be good, it ought to have a Tendency to benefit the Reader, by improving his Virtue or his Knowledge. But, not regarding the Intention of the Author, the Method should be just, that is, it should proceed regularly from Things known to Things unknown, distinctly and clearly without Confusion. The Words used should be the most expressive that the Language affords, provid’d that they are the most generally understood. Nothing should be express’d in two Words that can be as well express’d in one; that is, no Synonymes should be used, or very rarely, but the whole should be as short as possible, consistent with clearness; the Words should be so placed as to be agreeable to the Ear in reading, summarily it should be smooth, clear, and short, for the contrary qualities are displeasing.”

So wrote Benjamin Franklin after thirty years of constant production of what is generally accepted as the strongest, clearest, simplest English that has come from the pen of an American writer.

Earlier in his career, after five years of editorship, he had written “To the Printer of the Gazette:”

“To write *clearly*, not only the most expressive, but the plainest Words should be chosen. . . . The Fondness of some Writers for such Words as carry with them an Air of Learning, renders them unintelligible to more than half their Countrymen. If a man would that his Writings have an Effect on the Generality of Readers, he had better imitate

that Gentleman, who would use no Word in his Works that was not well understood by his Cook and maid."

His first effort to acquire correct literary style began in his early teens and was the result of controversy with a youthful friend, John Collins over "the Propriety of educating the female Sex in Learning and their Abilities for Study." Franklin preserved not only his friend's letters but copies of his own arguments on the subject. The correspondence later came to the attention of his father, who pointed out to his son that the literary form of his arguments was inferior to that of his antagonist and suggested methods of improvement which were followed to advantage.

About this time Benjamin came across a volume of the "Spectator," the brilliant collection of essays on a wide variety of subjects that was published in London between the years 1711 and 1714, and despite his youth he immediately discovered its value from a literary point of view. In the "Autobiography" he relates how he made synopses of some of the papers, laid them aside for a few days and then without looking at them again rewrote them from his notes and compared his effort with the original. He soon saw that he was deficient in his vocabulary and he attempted to turn the papers into verse, which necessitated a search for words of different sound and number of syllables.

Juv.

Tuesday, May 20. 1712.

his Heart made several Reflections on the Greatness  
of the *British* Nation; at that one Englishman could  
begeth  
the  
other honest Prejudices that naturally cleave to the  
Fleat of a true *Englishman*.

After some short Pause, the old Knight turning about his Head twice or thrice, to take a Survey of this great Metropolis, bid me observe how thick the City was set with Churches, and that there was

11/10/10, 6:44:40 PM 7/1/10

I do not remember that I have any where mentioned, in Sir Kock's Character, his Cultivation of Saluting every Body that passes by him, with a Good Morrow, or a Good night. This the Old Man does out of Overflowsing his Humanity, tho' at the same time he renders him so popular among all his Country Neighbours, that it is thought to have done a good way in making him once or twice Knight of the Shire. He cannot forbear this Excess of Benevolence when in Town, when he meets with any one in his Morning or Evening Walk. It broke from him to form his last Visit to the Water Cure, and he was so much soothed and pleased by it, that he was almost insensible to the distress by us upon the Water Cure to the Knights of the Garter, and the Knights of the Bath, and the great Surplice, as he gave the Good-night to two or three young Fellows a little before our Landing, one of them, instead of returning the Civility, asked us what Queer old Part we had in the Boat? and whether he was not pursued to go to a Wenching at his Year's with a great deal of the like Throckmorton-Ridley. Sir Kock in great alarm, and in great haste, but at length assuming a Face of Majesty, cried, that if he were a Middlesex Justice, he would make such Persons know that their Subjects were no more to be abused by Water than by Land.

My old Friend, after having fooled himself, and  
thumped the Boat with his Coachman, who, being a  
very sober Man, always serves for Ballast in these  
Seceditions, Mania the best of our way for *Swiss*.  
Sir Row is obliged the Waterman to who was the  
Way of our Right Leg, and heaping that he had lost it  
in *Swiss* Day, with many Particulars which passed in  
this glorious Action, the Knight in the Triumph of

**We**

A first page of the London newspaper which young Benjamin Franklin used as a model in his study to improve his literary style. Size of original 57" x 9 1/2".



He would also take a synopsis and jumble the hints into confusion, later attempting to restore them to their proper order, by which process he taught himself method in the arrangement of his thoughts.

He supplemented his scanty education by reading the best books. Among them were Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," Burton's "Historical Collections," Plutarch's "Lives," DeFoe's "Essays on Projects," Mather's "Essays to Do Good," Locke's "On the Human Understanding," du Port Royal's "Art of Thinking," Xenophon's "Memorable Things of Socrates," and other works that one would not expect ordinarily to find in the library of a boy of fifteen or sixteen.

The book last named had a pronounced influence upon Franklin. He had become an aggressive controversialist, and his study of Xenophon's work induced him to adopt the Socratic method of arguing, that of asking questions seemingly irrelevant but leading to conclusions not suspected by the opponent. He became adept in its use and his victories afforded him much satisfaction.

Of his arguments with Keimer, who was himself fond of disputations, he said: "I used to work him so with my Socratic method, and had trepanned him so often by questions apparently so distant from any Point we had in hand, and yet by Degrees led to the point, and brought him into Diffi-

culties and Contradictions, that at last he grew ridiculously cautious, and would hardly answer me the most common Question without asking first, 'What do you intend to infer from that?' However, it gave him so high an opinion of my Abilities in the confuting way that he seriously proposed my being his Colleague in a project he had of setting up a new sect. He was to preach the Doctrines, and I was to confound all Opponents."

Franklin eventually abandoned the Socratic method. "I continued this Method some few years, but gradually left it," he said, "retaining only the Habit of expressing myself in terms of modest Diffidence, never using, when I advanced any thing that might possibly be disputed, the words certainly, undoubtedly, or any others that give the air of positiveness to an Opinion; but rather say, I conceive or apprehend a thing to be so and so; it appears to me, or I should think it so or so, for such and such reasons; or I imagine it to be so; or it is so, if I am not mistaken. This Habit, I believe has been of great Advantage to me when I have had occasion to inculcate my opinions, and persuade Men into Measures that I have been from Time to Time engaged in promoting."

Franklin gives evidence in his correspondence of having been always a student of language.

In 1789 young Noah Webster sent him his "Dissertations upon the English Language." Franklin acknowledged its receipt in approving terms, complimenting the young author on his "zeal for preserving the purity of our Language" and recommending further effort along that line.

He objected to the growing use of the word "improved" instead of "employed" in an expression like "a country House improved as a Tavern." He also objected to the forming of verbs from substantives such as "noticed," "advocated," "progressed" and "opposed."

When Franklin published his so-called "Canada Pamphlet" he himself came under the criticism of the English historian, David Hume, because of his use of unusual words. Three that Hume specified were "pejorate," "colonize" and "unshakeable." Franklin gave up the first two as being provincial and the last as "rather low." He conceded the inadvisability of introducing "new words where we are already possessed of old ones sufficiently expressive," but added "at the same time I cannot but with the Usage of our Tongue permitted making new words, when we want them, by Composition of old Ones, whose meanings are already well understood." "For instance, the word 'inaccessible' so long in use among us, is not, I dare say, so universally understood by our people as the word 'uncomeatable' would immediately be."

Franklin proposed "A Scheme for a New Alphabet and Reformed Mode of Spelling," explained in the following remarks:

"It is endeavoured to give the Alphabet a more natural Order; beginning first with the simple Sounds formed by the Breath, with none or very little help of Tongue, Teeth, and Lips, and produced chiefly in the Windpipe.

"Then coming forward to those, formed by the Roof of the Tongue next to the Windpipe.

"Then to those, formed more forward by the fore part of the Tongue against the Roof of the Mouth.

"Then those, formed still more forward, in the Mouth, by the Tip of the Tongue applied first to the Roots of the upper Teeth.

"Then to those formed by the Tip of the Tongue applied to the Ends or Edges of the upper Teeth.

"Then to those, formed yet more forward, by the upper and under Lip opening to let out the sounding Breath.

"And lastly, ending with the shutting up of the Mouth, or closing the Lips, while any Vowel is sounding."

His reformed alphabet comprised twenty of the characters of the English alphabet and to replace those rejected he substituted six of his own construction. He used it in correspondence with some of his close friends whose devotion to him and interest in everything he did caused them to study the alphabet sufficiently to be able to write with it, but it had no vogue beyond his immediate circle. Noah

*So huen sgm endfiel, byi divyin kcmmand,  
 Uih ryiziy tempests fiecks e gilli land,  
 (Syfſi az cw lect or pecl Britania paſt,)  
 Kalm and ſiriin hi dryins hi ſiuriys blaſt;  
 And, pliiꝛ'd h' ahmyitis ardyrs tu pyrfſurm,  
 Ryids in hi huyrluind and dyirekts hi ſturm.*

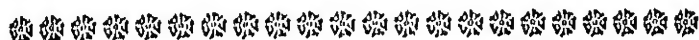
*So hi piur limpiul ſtriim, huen ſcuul uih ſteens  
 cw ryſſiy, tcevents and diſendiig reens,  
 Uyrks itſelf klir; and az it ryps riſiyins;  
 Tſil byi digriis, hi ſlotiy miryr ſiyins,  
 Riſlechts iitſi ſtcur hut en its heurdyr groz,  
 And e nu hev'n in its ſeer byzqm ſioz.*

Two verses in Franklin's reformed alphabet. "Englished," they read as follows:

So when some angel by divine command  
 With rising tempests woke a guilty land  
 (Such men of late o'er pale Britannia pass'd)  
 Calm and serene he drives his furious blast  
 And pleases the Almighty's orders to perform  
 Rides in the whirlwind and directs the storm

So the pure limpid stream when foul with stains  
 Of rising torrents or descending rains  
 Works itself clear and as it runs returns  
 Till by degrees thy floating mirror shines  
 Reflects each flower that on its border grows  
 And a new heav'n in its fair bosom shows.

Webster in his "Dissertation upon the English Language" makes this interesting reference: "This indefatigable Gentleman (Dr. Franklin), amidst all his other employments, public and private, has compiled a Dictionary on his Scheme of a Reform, and procured types to be cast for printing it. He thinks himself too old to pursue the plan; but has honored me with the offer of the Manuscript and Types and expressed a strong Desire that I should undertake the task. Whether this project, so deeply interesting to this Country will ever be effected; or whether it will be defeated by Insolence and prejudice remains for my countrymen to determine."



## C H A P. XIX.

*Literary Works.*

ALBERT HENRY SMYTH in his chapter on the works of Franklin quotes Sydney Smith's remark to his daughter, "I will disinherit you if you do not admire everything written by Franklin," and himself adds "The literature of the world might be searched in vain for the works of another author who should exhibit such a variety of theme, fertility of thought and excellence of style."

Franklin's earliest attempts at authorship were in the form of ballads. In his time nearly every-

body took a turn at rhyming, and although the ballads were, as Franklin in later years said of his own, usually "wretched stuff," many of them had a large sale. Thomas Fleet is said by Isaiah Thomas to have sold so many ballads that "the profit upon them alone was sufficient to support his family respectably." The ballads were commonly of a tragic nature, relating the "exploits of pirates, the execution of murderers, the gallantry of highwaymen, terrible shipwrecks, horrible crimes, etc." Young Franklin, seeming to have some facility at ballad writing, at the suggestion of his elder brother James, wrote two, one called "The Light House Tragedy" and the other relating the exploits of Edward Teach, a pirate known as "Blackbeard," who cruised up and down the Atlantic Coast, striking terror wherever he went.

Benjamin not only wrote the ballads, but went, under his brother's direction, to sell them on the streets. Of "The Light House Tragedy" it is said that it "sold prodigiously," which so encouraged the young author that he would have made further efforts in ballad writing had not his father come to his rescue and persuaded him to devote his talents to more sensible endeavor.

Franklin wrote most of the matter in the "Pennsylvania Gazette" not credited by him to other sources. The Almanack was a sort of melting pot into which he gathered whatever came his way

that served his purpose. Some of Poor Richard's sayings were phrased as they were found, others were slightly altered, and in many the thought alone was used but expressed in Franklin's own words. His attitude may be seen in what Poor Richard had to say in No. 15 of the Almanack on the subject of poetry.

"The Verses on the Heads of Months are also generally designed to have the same Tendency. I need not tell thee that not many of them are of My Own Making. If thou hast any Judgment in Poetry, thou wilt easily discern the Workman from the Bungler. I know as well as thee, that I am not *Poet Born*; and it is a Trade I never learnt, nor indeed could learn. . . . Why then should I give my Readers bad *Lines* of my own, when *good Ones* of other People's are so plenty?"

Franklin wrote much on scientific subjects, giving evidence of interest in them at an early age. During his first sojourn in London he made the acquaintance of several men of scientific attainment, one of them being Dr. Pemberton, secretary of the Royal Society, who made him the promise of an introduction to Sir Isaac Newton, but failed to keep it. Another was Sir Hans Sloane, who invited him to his house and showed him his collection of curiosities.

In the "Gazette" he published papers of his own authorship on such subjects as "On Making Rivers Navigable," "Causes of Earthquakes," etc., but it



was not until 1746, when he was forty years of age and two years before his retirement from business, that his attention was first drawn to electricity. In that year his friend, Peter Collinson, London Agent for the Library Company of Philadelphia, and fellow of the Royal Society of London, sent to Philadelphia an electrical tube with directions for its use. Franklin gave himself up to the fascinating experiments he was able to make with it.

"I never was before engaged in any Study that so totally engrossed my Attention and my Time as this has lately done"; he says, "for, what with making Experiments when I can be alone, and repeating them to my Friends and Acquaintance, who, from the Novelty of the thing, come continually in Crowds to see them I have, during some Months past, had little Leisure for anything else."

Franklin's writings on the subject of electricity were sent to Europe, where they were at first received with ridicule and later accepted with enthusiasm.

With his untiring energy, he delved into the mystery of natural phenomena in every direction. He propounded a theory of navigation; it was he who discovered that storms have a definite direction; the experiments he conducted on shipboard to relieve the tedium of the long ocean voyages demonstrated that there is a difference of temperature in the Gulf Stream as compared with the

It surrounds it, and it was he who found the effect of oil upon water. A collection of Franklin's writings on science and philosophy may be obtained from the following list by Professor Smyth: "Franklin's mind was full of ideas. In a single letter he speaks of northeast storms, the origin of springs in petrified shells in the Appalachians, and subjects apparently far apart and with no connection, and yet they are linked together very enough, for, as he said, with homely words, 'ideas will fling themselves like ropes from the end of things.' . . . His philosophical writings embrace subjects of electricity, seismology, geology, astronomy, physics, chemistry, astronomy, mathematics, horology, aeronautics, navigation, culture, ethnology, paleontology, medicine, and pedagogy." "His writings upon scientific subjects received the unusual attention, one reason being that they were so understandable. He wrote not in terms, but in the language of the layman. 'He speaks in his language,' says Sparks, 'in a wonderfully decorous, the best adapted to native loveliness.'" "The chief product of Franklin's pen was of sufficient length to make a book of average size. They were intended as contributions to newspapers or publication as pamphlets and broad-

sides, or were social and business letters. There are in existence between fifteen thousand and sixteen thousand of his original manuscripts, embraced mainly in three great collections, which are located respectively in the Library of Congress at Washington, D. C., the Library of the American Philosophical Society, in Philadelphia, and the Library of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Among what might be called the minor collections, because not so large, the most important probably is that in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

Professor Smyth says of Franklin, "he had the muggle trait of hoarding things." Letters written to him, rough drafts and copies of letters written by him, visiting cards and invitations to dinner or to masonic lodge meetings were saved and cherished and went to swell the tremendous aggregate of his collection of papers.

When in 1776 Franklin went to France as a representative of the Confederation he was seventy years of age and naturally uncertain as to the probable tenure of his life. He made Joseph Galloway, once speaker of the Pennsylvania Assembly and a friend of many years, one of his executors and in his supposedly safe care left his collection of papers securely packed in a chest.

Two things happened which Franklin naturally did not expect would happen. One was the sending

by Galloway of the chest of papers to his country seat some miles from Philadelphia, where they were stored in a small house sometimes used as an office, and the other was Galloway's desertion of the patriot cause and alliance with the British.

The house was later broken into by "rebels," to use Galloway's phrase, by which he probably meant American soldiers. The chest was opened and its contents scattered upon the floor, where they remained in disorder until Richard Bache, Franklin's son-in-law, heard of the disaster and went to Galloway's house, collected such of the papers as could be found, and returned with them to Philadelphia. Important letters and manuscripts, including those relating to the whole period of Franklin's representation of the Colonies in England, the most valuable of his early documents, were lost.

All of Franklin's papers and manuscripts were bequeathed to his grandson, William Temple Franklin, who took with him to London some letter books and a few other original manuscripts, leaving what remained, comprising thirteen thousand separate pieces, in the possession of the father of Charles P. Fox, who nearly fifty years later bequeathed all but a comparatively small portion of them to the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, where they have since remained.

The portion referred to was stored in a garret

over a stable at the home of the Fox family, and was therefore overlooked. Miss Fox knew what the papers were but took small interest in them, and needing a new carpet for her kitchen decided to sell the waste paper to a paper mill in order to secure funds with which to purchase the carpet. They were in process of removal when a Mrs. Holbrook was visiting Miss Fox. Mrs. Holbrook remonstrated and the papers, with the exception of those contained in one unlucky barrel, which could not be recalled, were returned to the house and later presented to Mrs. Holbrook. Eventually, through the efforts of Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, they were purchased and deposited in the Library of the University of Pennsylvania.

The manuscripts taken abroad by William Temple Franklin had the "strange, eventful history" which seems to have been the fate of all of the Benjamin Franklin papers. After the publication of his edition of his grandfather's writings, the original papers were deposited for safe keeping with a firm of London bankers. A few years after William Temple Franklin's death the widow removed the papers and for the next seventeen years nothing is known of their whereabouts. Mrs. Franklin remarried and apparently lost interest in them.

In 1840 they were found "loosely bundled up," on the top shelf of a tailor's shop in the London

street where William Temple Franklin had lodged. The finder ineffectually offered them for sale, to the British Museum among others, for nearly a dozen years. Finally a buyer was found in Henry Stevens, of Vermont, who sorted, repaired, and rearranged them, and in turn sold them to the United States for \$35,000. Comprising nearly three thousand separate items, they are now accurately catalogued and arranged in fourteen folio volumes in the Manuscript Department of the Library of Congress in Washington.

When William Temple Franklin came into the possession of his grandfather's works, his first thought was of course to issue a complete edition of such as in his opinion were worthy of preservation, and that none of the papers might escape him he inserted in the "Aurora," a newspaper published by Duane, who had married the widow of his cousin, Benjamin Franklin Bache, the following advertisement:

#### "DR. FRANKLIN'S PAPERS

"Towards the end of the year 1776, the late Dr. Franklin, on his departure for Europe, for greater security deposited a large chest, containing his papers and manuscripts, with Mr. Joseph Galloway, at his place in Bucks County in Pennsylvania. The same was left there by Mr. Galloway, when he quitted his habi-

tation, and was, it is said, broke open by persons unknown, and many of the papers taken away and dispersed in the neighborhood.

"Several of the most valuable of these papers have since been recovered; but there are still some missing, among which are a few of the Doctor's Letter Books, and a manuscript in four or five volumes folio, on Finance, Commerce, and Manufactures. The subscriber, to whom Dr. Franklin bequeathed all his papers and manuscripts, and who is preparing to give his works to the public, takes this method of informing those who may have knowledge of any of the above mentioned papers, and will communicate the same to him so that he may thereby be enabled to recover any of them, or who may themselves procure any of them and deliver them to him, shall be thankfully and generously rewarded and no questions asked. He likewise requests those persons who may have any letters or other writings of Dr. Franklin that may be deemed worthy of the public eye, to be so kind as to forward them as early as possible, that they may be inserted in the Doctor's Works.

"Those, also, who may have any books or maps belonging to the library of the late Dr. Franklin, are desired to return them without delay, to the subscriber, who is about to embark for Europe.

"W. T. FRANKLIN."

William Temple Franklin went to London to arrange for the publishing of the papers, arriving just in time to halt the issuance in English of two translations of a French edition of the "Autobiography" that had been published by Buisson in 1791. On his positive assurance that he would soon bring out a complete edition of his grandfather's works, the publication of these two translations was delayed two years. In 1793 they both appeared, one bearing the imprint of J. Parsons and the other, edited by Richard Price, one of Benjamin Franklin's friends, which was much the better of the two, bearing the imprint of G. C. J. & J. Robinson.

A year later the "Autobiography" appeared in Germany, translated from Robinson's edition, and in 1798 a new version in French was published in Paris. In this later French edition the editor complained because the edition promised by William Temple Franklin had not been published, adding, "the works of a great man belong less to his heirs than to the human race."

In 1806, "while Temple Franklin was still scissoring, sorting, shifting, and pasting the heaps of his grandfather's papers," appeared "The Complete Works in Philosophy, Politics and Morals, of the late Dr. Benjamin Franklin now first collected and arranged: with Memoirs of his early Life written by himself in 3 vols., London, J. John-



EXPERIMENTS

AND

OBSERVATIONS

ON

ELECTRICITY,

MADE AT

PHILADELPHIA in AMERICA,

BY

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PHILOSOPHICAL SUBJECTS.

The Whole corrected, methodized, improved, and now first collected into one Volume,

AND

Illustrated with COPPER PLATES.

---

L O N D O N :

Printed for DAVID HENRY, and sold by FRANCIS NEWBERRY,  
at the Corner of St. Paul's Church-Yard.

MDCCCLXIX.

First comprehensive collection of Franklin's writings in English. Original in the Typographic Library and Museum of the American Type Founders Company, Jersey City, N. J. Size 4 1/4" x 7".

son and Longman." In the preface of this edition, the editor of which is said to have been a Mr. Marshall, assisted it is believed by Benjamin Vaughan, appears a severe criticism of William Temple Franklin, because of his delay in the publication of the work. A part of it is as follows:

"The proprietor, it seems, had found a bidder of a different description in some emissary of government, whose object was to withhold the manuscripts from the world, not to benefit it by their publication; and they thus either passed into other hands, or the person to whom they were bequeathed received a remuneration for suppressing them. This at least has been asserted, by a variety of persons, both in this country and America, of whom some were at the time intimate with the grandson, and not wholly unacquainted with the machinations of the ministry; and the silence, which has been observed for so many years respecting the publication, gives additional credibility to the report."

Later in the same year the "American Citizen," a newspaper published in New York, joined in the condemnation by saying that William Temple Franklin, "without shame and without remorse, mean and mercenary, has sold the sacred deposit committed to his care by Dr. Franklin to the British government. Franklin's works are lost to the world forever."

To this Temple Franklin published a reply

Œ U V R E S  
D E  
M. FRANKLIN,  
DOCTEUR ÈS LOIX,

*MEMBRE DE L'ACADÉMIE ROYALE DES SCIENCES  
de Paris, des Sociétés Royales de Londres & de Göttingue,  
des Sociétés Philosophiques d'Edimbourg & de Rotterdam,  
Président de la Société Philosophique de Philadelphie,  
& Résident à la Cour de la Grande Bretagne pour plusieurs  
Colonies Britanniques Américaines.*

TRADUITES DE L'ANGLAIS SUR LA QUATRIÈME ÉDITION,

P A R M. BARBEU DUBOURG

AVEC DES ADDITIONS NOUVELLES

*ET des Figures en Taille d'acier.*

TOME PREMIER.



A P A R I S ,

Chez { QUETLAU Pâris, Libraire, rue Christin, au Magasin Littéraire.  
ESPRIT, Libraire de M<sup>rs</sup> le Duc de Chantres, au Palais Royal.  
Et l'Auteur, rue de la Harpe, aux Ecoles de Médecine.

Imprimé par M. L. J. de la Harpe, à Paris.

M. D C C. L X X I I I

*Avec Approbation & Permission du Roi.*

First edition of Franklin's writings in French. Original in the Typographic Library and Museum of the American Type Foundry Company, Jersey City, N. J. Size 5 1/2" x 7 3/4".

ding the charge as "atrociously false" and saying that the papers had been left to him to be disposed "in his discretion" and the manuscripts not lost but were "under lock and key in the vaults of my bankers." Finally in 1817, twenty-seven years after Temple Franklin came into the possession of the papers willed to him by grandfather, appeared the first volume of his edition. There were six octavo volumes, the last coming in 1819. The edition was limited to one hundred and fifty copies. The publisher, J. Colburn, assumed all the expenses and risks; took one third of the profits, Temple Franklin receiving profits amounting to fourteen hundred and twenty-three pounds.

Of the editions of Franklin's works not mentioned above the most notable are the following:

London, 1779, one volume.

London, 1806, three volumes.

Philadelphia, 1808-1818, six volumes.

Boston, 1836-1842; ten volumes.

New York, 1887-1888; ten volumes.

New York, 1907, ten volumes.

Of these editions the only one now not out of date is that by Professor Smyth, and it is by far the best. Sparks took liberties with the manu-

M É M O I R E S  
D E L A V I E P R I V É E  
D E B E N J A M I N F R A N K L I N .

É C R I T S P A R L U I - M Ê M E ,

E T A D R E S S É S A S O N F I L S ;

*S U I V I S d'un Précis historique de sa Vie  
politique , et de plusieurs Pièces , relatives  
à ce Père de la Liberté.*



A P A R I S ,

C H O X D U R É S S O N , Libraire , rue Haute-Feuille , n<sup>o</sup>. 29.

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1 7 9 1 .

The first edition in any language of the famous "Autobiography."  
Original in the Typographic Library and Museum of the American  
Type Founders Company, Jersey City, N. J. Size 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

scripts, correcting and altering as he chose. Bigelow's edition was an improvement, but he based many of his quotations upon the work of Sparks and thereby repeated the errors.

Professor Smyth performed a notable service to American letters in preparing his edition of Franklin's works. He had access to many manuscripts not known when previous editions were published and in republishing he went to the original documents in every case, preserving their exact style, spelling, and of course phraseology.

The "Autobiography" will always remain one of the great monuments of American literature. It has been translated into practically every tongue, securing a wide circulation all over the globe, and in America no library is complete without it. In some cities it is used as a text-book in the public schools.

The manuscript of the "Autobiography" in Franklin's handwriting long remained in the possession of the family of M. le Veillard, Mayor of Passy when Franklin lived there, and one of his close personal friends. In 1867 it came into the possession of Hon. John Bigelow, Minister to the Court of France, and for the first time the public was made acquainted with the "Autobiography" as written by its author. On comparison with the edition put forth by William Temple Franklin, it was found that as his grandfather's literary execu-

tor he had taken unwarranted liberties with the text. More than twelve hundred changes were found to have been made by him, all of them a course in his own mind improvements upon the original.

"Of these changes," says McMaster, "little need be said. They are usually 'Temple Franklin' Latin words for Benjamin Franklin's Anglo-Saxon. They remind us of the language of those finished writers for the press who can never call a fire anything but a conflagration, nor a crowd anything but a vast concourse, and who dare not use the same word twice on the same page. Thus it is that in the Temple Franklin edition 'notion' has become 'pre-tence,' that 'night coming on' has become 'night approaching,' that 'a very large one' has become 'a considerable one,' that 'treated me' has become 'received me,' that 'got a naughty girl with child' has become 'had an intrigue with a girl of bad character,' that 'very oddly' has been turned into 'a very extraordinary manner.' But the changes did not stop here. The coarseness of the grandfather was very shocking to the grandson, and 'guzzlers of beer' is made 'drinkers of beer,' 'footed it to London' becomes 'walked to London,' 'Keimer stared like a pig poisoned' is made to give way to 'Keimer stared with astonishment.'"

## CHAP. XX.

*Literary Friends.*

THE first of Benjamin Franklin's friends who could properly be classed under the title of this chapter were two friends of his youth, John Collins and James Ralph. It was with young Collins that he engaged in youthful controversies over weighty subjects, as has been related in another chapter, which resulted in his decision, at the suggestion of his father, to acquire an improved literary style. Collins seems to have been a young man of great promise, but he took to over-indulgence in intoxicants and early disappeared from Franklin's life.

James Ralph was one of the original members of the Junto. He was clerk to a merchant and was "ingenious, genteel in his manners, and extremely eloquent." But he abandoned a young wife and child and went with Franklin to England, where he became a literary hack and a producer of indifferent poetry. His memory is kept alive principally because of the fact that Alexander Pope satirized him in the "Dunciad." He dedicated his first work to Franklin.

In enumerating in the "Autobiography" his closest acquaintances during his first years in Philadelphia, Franklin named not only James Ralph, but Charles Osborne and Joseph Watson, "all lovers of reading," and presents an attractive



N I G H T :

A

P O E M.

---

In Four Books.

---

Pitchy and dark the night sometimes appears,  
Friend to our woe, and parent of our tears;  
Our joys and wonder sometimes she excites,  
With stars unnumber'd, and eternal lights.

P R I O R.

---

By J A M E S R A L P H.

---

L O N D O N :

Printed by G. Ackers, for S. BILLINGSLY at the Judge's  
Head in Chancery-Lane. 1728: (Price 1s. 6d.)

Title page of a volume by Franklin's youthful friend, James Ralph.  
Original in possession of the author.  
Size 4" x 6 1/2".

ure of their intimacy when he adds: "Many  
fant Walks we four had together on Sundays  
the Woods near Schuylkill where we read to  
another and conferred on what we read."

ne of the dearest friends of Franklin's later  
s was Benjamin Vaughan, a native of the West  
ies, who was in London serving as secretary to  
l Shelburne when Franklin was there. When  
"Parable of Persecution" was published in  
don during Franklin's absence in America, and a  
ge of plagiarism was brought against him,  
ghan sprang immediately and successfully to  
lefence. He it was who urged Franklin to con-  
e the writing of the "Autobiography," and he  
the editor of the first edition of Franklin's  
ks.

eter Collinson, celebrated because of his knowl-  
e of botany and natural history, was another  
e friend. He kept up a correspondence with  
rof science in all parts of the world, and it was to  
that Franklin was indebted for the opportunity  
nake his first experiments with an electrical  
e which Collinson sent from London to the  
rary Company of Philadelphia.

adwallader Colden, another friend, was about  
same age as Benjamin Vaughan, both being a  
en years older than Franklin. Colden was the  
hor of the "History of the Five Indian Nations,"  
inciples of Action in Matter," and other

scientific and historical works. He invented method of stereotyping about which he wrote long description to Franklin, but which did not come into general use.

Other literary friends in England were Edmund Burke, author of an "Essay on the Sublime and the Beautiful," who later became better known through his oratory and statesmanship; David Hume, the historian, and Adam Smith, author of "Theory of Moral Sentiments" and "The Wealth of Nations."

America at the time was not abundantly supplied with literary men, but Franklin was friend and confidante to two young men whose names were later to become well known. One of them was Thomas Paine, to whom he wrote advising him not to publish his attacks upon the prevailing religious beliefs and the other was Noah Webster, compiler of the dictionary that bore his name.

Franklin's greatest friendship, however, one which has become historic, does not properly come under the designation of "literary" in the sense of authorship. It is that which existed between him and William Strahan (now pronounced as if spelled Strawn, but in his lifetime pronounced Stray-han), the celebrated London printer and publisher. Strahan was nine years younger than Franklin, having been born in 1713. He built up a successful business, became printer to the king and

Philad<sup>a</sup> July 5. 1775  
Mr. Shahan,

You are a Member of Parliament  
and one of that Majority which has  
doomed my Country to Destruction—  
You have begun to burn our Towns,  
and murder our People—Look upon  
your Hands!—They are stained with the  
Blood of <sup>your</sup> Relations!—You and I were  
long Friends—You are now my En-  
emy, and

I am,

Yours,  
B. Franklin

was the publisher of David Hume's "History of England" and the works of Edward Gibbon, author of the "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire."

Strahan and Franklin spent much time in each other's company when Franklin was resident in England, and later he was Franklin's representative in London in his business negotiations. Their correspondence was voluminous and it was to Strahan that the famous "you are now my enemy" letter was addressed. Paul Leicester Ford makes the statement, on what authority is not known, that the letter was never sent. What may be the original, but what would seem to be a copy, is preserved in the collection of Franklin manuscripts in the Library of Congress at Washington, and it is the one usually used for illustration in works relating to Franklin. In the private library of J. Pierpont Morgan, in New York, is another copy in Franklin's handwriting, which fact affords material for interesting speculation.

Franklin's letters to Strahan were, with one exception, decorous and dignified, save that some of them, instead of bearing a formal superscription, were addressed "Dear Straney." What must have been Strahan's astonishment when he received the exception, which was dated Burlington, October 4, 1763, and which begins:

"In the name of God what I have said or done to you, that so many Months should elapse, so many

Vessels arrive without my having the Pleasure of a single Line from you since my Arrival in America. I can't help imagining that you must have Wrote, and the letter miscarried, but Mrs. F. says she thinks you have quite forgot us, now we have left England, and that you will not trouble yourself about us any more. I hope she is mistaken and that you will enable me to prove her so."

The original is in Mr. Morgan's collection.

William Strahan put himself on record as to his friendship for Franklin in a letter to Mrs. Franklin, unsuccessfully urging her to overcome her dislike for the sea and to make a voyage to London. "For my own part," he said to her about her husband, "I never saw a man who was in every respect so perfectly agreeable to me. Some are amiable in one view, some in another, he in all."



## CHAP. XXI.

### *The Love of Books.*

**B**ENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S early love of books is revealed in the incident related in the first chapter of this volume of his arrangement with the brother to whom he was apprenticed to spend less upon his board and clothing in order to provide him with money for the purchase of books. One of his earliest friends in Boston was a Matthew Adams,

who had a collection of books and who invited the boy to his home and placed the books at his disposal.

It is related in the "Autobiography" that when he arrived in New York from Boston the second time, the governor of the province (Burnet) hearing from the Captain of the ship that one of his passengers had a great many books, invited the young man to call upon him. "The Governor treated me with great Civility, showed me his Library, which was a very large one, and we had a good deal of conversation about books and authors." In the "Autobiography" Franklin relates how he once changed an enemy into a friend by borrowing a book: "Having heard that he had in his Library a certain very scarce and curious Book, I wrote a note to him, expressing my desire of perusing that Book, and requesting he would do me the favor of lending it to me for a few days. He sent it immediately, and I return'd it in about a week with another note expressing strongly my sense of the favor. When we next met in the House he spoke to me (which he had never done before) and with great civility, and he ever after manifest'd a readiness to serve me on all occasions, so that we became great friends, and our friendship continued to his death."

Before young Benjamin made the arrangement with his brother James by which he hoped to acquire a library of his own he became acquainted

with an apprentice in a second-hand book store, through whose connivance he sometimes borrowed a book, "a small one," which he was careful to return soon and clean, often sitting up the greater part of the night so as to finish with it and be able to return it in the morning "lest it should be missed or wanted."

Next door to Palmer's printing house in London was a second-hand book establishment kept by one Wilcox, with whom he arranged "on certain reasonable Terms," to "take, read and return any of his books."

Franklin had definite ideas as to the way in which books should be read. In a letter to his young friend, Miss Mary Stevenson, accompanying a gift of books, he wrote: "I would advise you to read with a Pen in your Hand, and enter in a little Book short Hints of what you find that is curious, or that may be useful; for this will be the best method of imprinting such Particulars in your Memory, where they will be ready, either for practice on some future occasion, if they are matters of utility, or at least to adorn and improve your conversation, if they are rather points of curiosity. And as many of the terms of Science are such, as you cannot have met with in your common reading, and may therefore be unacquainted with, I think it would be well for you to have a good Dictionary at hand, to consult imme-



diately when you meet with a Word you comprehend the precise Meaning of. This at first seem troublesome and interrupting; but trouble that will daily diminish, as you will find less and less occasion for your Dictionary: you become more acquaint'd with the Term in the mean time you will read with more satisfaction, because with more understanding."

Franklin bought books for their contents than for their appearance, as will be seen in the following quotation from a letter written to Benjamin Vaughan in 1783: "One can scarce see a Book, without observing the excessive Art made use of to puff up a Paper of Verses into a Pamphlet, a Pamphlet into an Octavo, an Octavo into a Quarto, with Scabbboardings, & Lines, sparse Titles of chapters, and exorbitant Margins, to such a Degree, that the Selling Paper seems now the object, and printing only the Pretence. I enclose the copy of a Poem in a late Comedy. Between every two Lines there is a white space equal to another line. You may see a Law, I think, against Butchers blowing of their bellows to make it look fatter; why not one against Booksellers' blowing of Books to make them bigger."

As was to be expected, Franklin's own library was a large one. The Rev. Dr. Manasseh Cutler, while on a visit to Philadelphia, called to pay

THE DIGNITY OF MAN.  

---

A  
DISCOURSE  
Addressed to the Congregation in  
FRANKLIN,  
Upon the Occasion of their receiving from  
*Dr. FRANKLIN,*  
The Mark of his Respect, in a rich  
DONATION OF BOOKS,  
Appropriated to the Use of a  
PARISH-LIBRARY.

---

By *NATHANAEL EMMONS,*  
PASTOR OF THE CHURCH IN FRANKLIN.

---

PROVIDENCE:  
PRINTED BY BRUNETT WHEELER, IN  
WESTMINSTER-STREET.

A sermon acknowledging one of Franklin's gifts of books.  
Original in Boston Public Library.  
Size 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

respects to Dr. Franklin, and in his journal he gives this glimpse of the library: "After it was dark we went into the House, and he invited me into his Library, which is likewise his Study. It is a very large Chamber, and high-fludded. The Walls are covered with Book-Shelves, filled with Books; besides there are four large Alcoves, extending two thirds the Length of the Chamber, filled in the same manner. I presume this is the largest and by far the best private Library in America."

Franklin made gifts of books to the Library Company of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Academy, Yale and Harvard Colleges, and the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh (St. Andrews) and was instrumental in securing contributions of books to other colleges. He gave a library of three hundred books to the town of Franklin in New Hampshire, and when a request came from the town of Franklin in Massachusetts for a bell to hang in the steeple of the meeting house he advised that he would send books instead of a bell, "Sense being preferable to Sound."

## C H A P. X X I I.

*Public Service.*

tedious of Fate, and fond of humble Things,  
 Below the Smiles, below the Frowns of Kings:  
 Thanks to my Stars, I prize the Sweets of Life,  
 No sleepless Nights I count, no Days of Strife.  
 I rest, I wake, I drink, I sometimes love,  
 I read, I write, I fettle, or I rove;  
 Content to live, content to die unknown,  
 And of Myself, accountable to None.

It was Poor Richard's conception of life  
 For permanent release from business cares.

Franklin retired he wrote to his friend  
 Allander Colden of New York: "I have re-  
 turned to a more quiet part of the Town, where I  
 settling my old Accounts, and hope soon to be  
 master of my own Time, and no longer, as  
 long has it, at every one's call but my own.  
 Thus you see I am in a fair way of having  
 fewer Talks than such as I shall like to give my-  
 self of enjoying what I look upon as a great  
 refreshment, Leisure to read, study, make Experi-  
 ments, and converse at large with such ingenious  
 worthy Men, as are pleas'd to honor me with  
 Friendship or Acquaintance, on such points  
 to produce something for the common Benefit  
 of Mankind, uninterrupted by the little cares and  
 bustles of Business."

He was not to be permitted to make use as

he chose of what he fondly hoped would be his time. On the contrary, no project, public or semi-public, was proposed but that the thought of the proposers seems to have interested Benjamin Franklin in it.

"There is no such thing," said Dr. E. Franklin, "as carrying through a public-project without you are concerned in it, for I am often asked by those to whom I propose something, 'Have you consulted Franklin on this business?' And what does he think of it?' And when I tell them that I have not (supposing it rather your line), they do not subscribe, but say, they will consider it."

Franklin's service to the public began when, at the age of twenty, he gathered a number of young friends around him and established the Junto, the first American debating society. The service ended when, two thirds of a century later, at the age of eighty-four, he founded the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery. Between these two events is a long list of services and achievements in the public interest. No work relating to Franklin's public life would be complete without mention of the importance of these services and achievements, although want of space in the present volume permits of no more than the listing of the names.

So far as the holding of public offices is concerned, Franklin stated it to be his rule "never to ask, never refuse, or never resign an office." His first was that of Justice of Peace which, however, he did resign, because he felt that he had not sufficient legal knowledge to fill it adequately. The other offices he held were as follows:

Clerk Pennsylvania Assembly  
Speaker Pennsylvania Assembly  
Member Philadelphia Common Council and,  
later, Alderman  
Postmaster of Philadelphia  
Deputy Postmaster General for the Colonies  
Postmaster General for the Colonies  
Delegate to Albany convention to consider  
plans for a union of the Colonies  
Acting General, Pennsylvania Militia  
Colonel, Pennsylvania Militia  
President Pennsylvania Commission of Safety  
Commissioner to Continental Army at Cambridge  
Commissioner to Canada  
Agent in England for the Colonies (sixteen  
years)  
Member Secret Committee of Correspondence  
Member Committee to draft Declaration of  
Independence  
Member Continental Congress

President Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention

United States Commissioner to France

United States Minister Plenipotentiary to France

United States Commissioner to Negotiate Peace with Great Britain

President (Governor) of Pennsylvania

Equally important with the holding of public office was Franklin's service of an unofficial kind. The more important of these achievements, in addition to the two already mentioned, were as follows:

Founded the American Philosophical Society (First President)

Founded the Philadelphia Library, upon which is based our public library system

Founded the University of Pennsylvania

Founded the Philadelphia Fire Company

Helped to found the Philadelphia Hospital

Introduced the basket willow

Introduced street paving, cleaning, and lighting

Reformed the night watch

Promoted use of plaster

Promoted use of mineral fertilizers

Promoted culture of silk

Advocated building of ships with water-tight compartments

Eventually he began to feel that he was identifying himself to too great a degree with philanthropic projects, so when the Reverend Gilbert Tennent came to him with a request for assistance in erecting a new meeting house he said, "Unwilling to make Myself disagreeable to my fellow-citizens by too frequently soliciting their Contributions, I absolutely refus'd." He did, however, give advice to the reverend solicitor, as to how to proceed, which was followed to success.

This attitude of mind is further illustrated by the following quotation from his statement in the "Autobiography" in regard to the founding of the Pennsylvania Academy which later became the University of Pennsylvania. "In the Introduction of these proposals, I stat'd their publication, not as an Act of mine, but of some public-spirited Gentlemen, avoiding as much as I could, according to my usual Rule, the presenting Myself to the Public as the author of any Scheme for their benefit."

His inventions come properly within the catalog of public service for the reason that he took out no patents. He declined Governor Thomas' offer to give him a patent on the Pennsylvania fireplace, saying, "that as we enjoy great Advantages from the Inventions of others, we should be glad of an Opportunity to serve others by an Invention of ours; and this we should do freely and generously."



Most of his inventions were of a minor character, tending merely to convenience or comfort (such as the chain which turned over and became a step ladder) exemplifying his statement that "human felicity is produc'd not to much by great pieces of good fortune that seldom happen as by little advantages that occur every day." The more important of his inventions are the following:

Lightning rod  
Franklin stove  
Smokeless chimney  
Bi-focal lens for spectacles  
Improved armonica

A part of Franklin's public service resulted from his deep interest in and his constant study of medicine. So important were his contributions to medical literature that a volume on "The Medical Side of Franklin," by Dr. William Pepper, has been published.

He proposed, among other innovations, a new theory of colds that met with much opposition before being finally adopted. His contributions on the subject of ventilation had much the same experience, although he came eventually to be so highly regarded as an authority on the subject that the government of England consulted him about the ventilation of the House of Commons.

Dr. Pepper says that Franklin's "letters on lead poisoning are wonderful and would have been a credit to any physician of that age." One such that had reference to printing was addressed to Benjamin Vaughan and is in part as follows:

"I there found a Practice I had never seen before, of drying a Cafe of Types (which are wet in distribution) by placing it sloping before the fire. I found this had the additional Advantage, when the Types were not only dri'd but heat'd, of being comfortable to the Hands working over them in cold Weather. I therefore sometimes heat'd my Cafe when the Types did not want drying. But an old workman, observing it, advis'd me not to do so, telling me I might lose the use of my Hands by it, as two of our Companions had nearly done, one of whom that used to earn his Guinea a week, could not then make more than ten Shillings and the other, who had the Dangles, but seven and sixpence. This, with a kind of obscure Pain, that I had sometimes felt, as it were in the Bones of my Hand when working over the Types made very hot, induced me to omit the Practice."

Franklin was not a graduate of a medical school, but was a member of several medical societies, and he did treat people for various ills. Many of the most prominent medical men of America and Europe were his intimate companions and valued correspondents, and many medical works were dedicated to him.

*"Our" Benjamin Franklin.*

BECAUSE of the wide range of his sympathies, of the astonishing energy and industry that pervaded his long life, and of his interest in the activities of nearly all the great movements of his century, mankind has many claims upon the heritage left by the words and deeds of Benjamin Franklin. I am firmly of the belief, however, that we of the printing and publishing craft have first claim in that respect, for whatever the many and remarkable achievements that took him into other fields in which he received welcome and acclaim, his interest in printing never lessened.

When in England, as agent for the Colonies, he went on one occasion to Watt's printing office, and according to the "Memoirs" of his friend Strahan, sought out a particular press and designated it as the one upon which he worked as a journeyman printer. During his ambassadorship at Paris, he visited the famous printing house of Didot, and taking hold of one of the presses with easy familiarity, printed off several sheets. To the startled printers who observed the performance, he said: "Do not be astonished, Sirs, it is my former Business."

To acknowledge having been a tradesman was, in the circle in French society in which he moved,

almost to accept membership in the lower orders, but Franklin never hesitated to speak of his early experiences. At dinner one day in Paris in the presence of a distinguished company he addressed a young gentleman just arrived from Philadelphia, with the statement that he had always felt an obligation to the young man's family because his grandfather had been one of the first of his customers.

In a letter to William Strahan, dated 1784, near the close of his life, a paragraph is written entertainingly in printing terms. It is as follows:

"But let us leave these serious Reflections and converse with our usual Pleasantry. I remember your observing once to me as we sat together in the House of Commons, that no two Journeymen Printers, within our Knowledge, had met with such Success in the World as ourselves. You were then at the head of your Profession, and soon afterwards became a Member of Parliament. I was an Agent for a few Provinces, and now act for them all. But we have risen by different Modes. I, as a Republican Printer, always liked a Form well plain'd down; being averse to those overbearing Letters that hold their Heads so high, as to hinder their Neighbours from appearing. You, as a Monarchist, chose to work upon Crown Paper, and found it profitable, while I work'd upon *pro patris* (often indeed call'd Fools Cap) with no less advantage. Both our Heaps hold out very well, and we seem likely to make a pretty good day's Work of it. With regard to Public Affairs (to

continue in the same file), it seems to me that the Compolitots in your Chapel do not call off their Copy well, nor perfectly understand Impoling; their Forms, too, are continually peller'd by the Outs and Doubles, that are not easy to be corrected. And I think they were wrong in laying aside some Faces, and particularly certain Head-pieces, that would have been both useful and ornamental. But Courage! The Butnets may still flourish with good Management; and the Master become as rich as any of the Company."

In a letter to Noah Webster dated the day after Christmas, 1789, he acknowledges receipt of that author's "Dissertations on the English Language" and takes occasion to make a number of observations relating to writing and printing. One point he brings out is that interrogation marks should be placed at the beginning of a sentence instead of at the end, so that one reading aloud would know how to modulate the voice. It was Franklin's practice usually to capitalize all important words, and he therefore takes occasion to deprecate the growing practice of restricting capitals to proper words. The letter goes on to state:

"From the same Fondness for an even and uniform Appearance of Characters in the Line, the Printers have of late banished also the Italic Types, in which Words of Importance to be attended to in the Sense of the Sentence, and Words on which an Emphasis should be put in Reading, used to be printed. And lately, another Fancy has induc'd

some Printers to use the short round s, instead of the long one, which formerly served well to distinguish a word readily by its varied appearance. Certainly, the omitting this prominent Letter makes the Line appear more even, but renders it less immediately legible; as the paring all Men's Noses might smooth and level their Faces, but would render their Physiognomies less distinguishable.

"Add to all these Improvements backwards, another modern Fancy, that grey Printing is more beautiful than black; hence the English new Books are printed in so dim a Character, as to be read with difficulty by old Eyes, unless in a very Strong Light and with good Glasses. Whoever compares a Volume of the '*Gentleman's Magazine*,' print'd between the Years 1731 and 1740 with one of those print'd in the last ten Years, will be convinc'd of the much greater Degree of Perspicuity given by Black Ink than by grey. Lord Chesterfield pleasantly remark'd this Difference to Faulkener, the Printer of the *Dublin Journal*, who was vainly making Encomiums on his own Paper, as the most complete of any in the World; But, Mr. Faulkener, said my Lord, don't you think it might be still farther improv'd by using Paper and Ink not quite so near of a Colour? For all these Reasons I cannot but wish that our American Printers would in their Editions avoid these fancied Improvements, and thereby render their Works more agreeable to Foreigners in Europe, to the great advance of our Bookselling Commerce."

He felt strongly upon the matter of the misuse of capitals and italics. According to Professor

Smyth, "he wrote to the printer Woodfall, enclosing a contribution to his paper, asking him to take care that the compositor observed strictly the Italicking, Capitalling and Pointing!" And he told his son that his "Edict of the King of Prussia" had been reprinted in the "London Chronicle," "but stripped of all the Capitalling and Italicking that intimate the allusions and mark the emphasis of written discourses, to bring them as near as possible to those spoken. Printing such a piece all in one even small Character, seems to me like repeating one of Whitfield's Sermons in the Monotony of a school boy."

Among the memorial services held after Franklin's death, the part played by the printers of Paris in the meetings held in that city is worthy of quotation here: "They assembled in a large hall, in which there was a column surmounted by a bust of Franklin, with a civic crown. Below the bust were arrayed printers' cases and types, with a press, and all the apparatus of the art, which the philosopher had practiced with such distinguished success. While one of the fraternity pronounced a eulogy on Franklin, several printers were employed in composing it at the cases; and, as soon as it was finished, impressions of it were taken, and distributed to the large concourse of people, who had been drawn together as spectators of the ceremony."

The famous epitaph was written when the author

*Our Benjamin Franklin.* 237

was twenty-two years of age, but was never used, the grave in the old cemetery in Philadelphia being marked only by a simple stone giving the bare facts of his life. The epitaph reads:

THE BODY  
OF  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN  
PRINTER  
(LIKE THE COVER OF AN OLD BOOK,  
ITS CONTENTS TORN OUT,  
AND STRIPT OF ITS LETTERING AND GILDING,)  
LIES HERE, FOOD FOR WORMS.  
BUT THE WORK SHALL NOT BE LOST,  
FOR IT WILL (AS HE BELIEVED) APPEAR ONCE MORE,  
IN A NEW AND MORE ELEGANT EDITION  
REVISED AND CORRECTED  
BY  
THE AUTHOR

When he wrote his will in the closing days of his life it began, "I, Benjamin Franklin, of Philadelphia, Printer, late Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America to the Court of France," etc.

Franklin statues have been erected in most of the large cities of America, and his bust has a place in



the decoration of school houses and other public buildings generally throughout the land. Every year in every important American city his birthday is celebrated by meetings and banquets of members of societies of advertising men, publishers, and printers. Printers claim him as their own by the statement that he is their "patron saint."

Benjamin Franklin died April 17, 1790, at the age of eighty-four years and three months, at his home in Philadelphia, surrounded by his family and near friends. Four days later he was buried in Christ Church burial ground, at Fifth and Arch streets, in Philadelphia. In the funeral procession, headed by the clergy of the city, were the chief members of the executive, legislative, and judicial departments of the government, and (according to the "Gazette of the United States," of April 28, 1790) "the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Philadelphia, the Printers of the city, with their Journeymen and Apprentices, the Philosophical Society, the College of Physicians, the Cincinnati, the College of Philadelphia, sundry other Societies together with a numerous and respectable body of Citizens." The account in the "Gazette" continues:

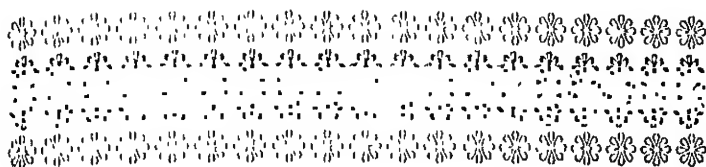
"The concourse of spectators was greater than ever was known on a like occasion. It is computed that not less than 20,000 persons attended and witnessed the funeral. The order and si-

lence which prevailed, during the Procession, deeply evinced the heartfelt sense, entertained by all classes of citizens, of the unparalleled virtues, talents, and services of the deceased."

The grave in Christ Church burial ground is unmarked by a monument of any kind. Simplicity was the keynote of all the events of his long and useful life, and simplicity characterizes the final resting place of his earthly remains.

THE END





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